message from the author

At the Shogakukan Manga Award party, my assistants, fellow mangaka, family, friends, Jazz musicians and animation staff came together for me.
I'm touched.

Director Watanabe was an unexpected guest, and I was very surprised by his appearance.

Thank you everyone.

月刊フラワーズ
flowers
珠玉の少女まんが進化型
毎月28日ごろ発売
http://flowers.shogakukan.co.jp

FCα FLOWER COMICS α
flowersフラワーコミックスアルファ

坂道のアポロン 9

小玉ユキ Kodama Yuki

小学館
FCα4465

坂道のアポロン 9 小玉ユキ

FLOWER COMICS α
flowers

9784091344656

ISBN978-4-09-134465-6

C9979 ¥419E

1929979004194

定価：本体419円＋税

雑誌 46054-65　　小学館

作品紹介

★1960年代後半。転入生の薫は、不良の千太郎と出会い、ジャズを通じ友情を育む。3年の文化祭直前、千太郎が事故を起こし失踪！　千太郎はきっともう戻ってこない…哀しい確信の後、薫は律子に東京への進学を告げ…!?

坂道のアポロン 9

小玉ユキ

＊flowersフラワーコミックスアルファ＊

The story so far

★

In the year 1966, Kaoru transferred into a local school. He meets Sentarou and is introduced to Jazz, and this completely changes his high school life! He confesses to Ritsuko while knowing of her feelings for Sentarou, so he was rejected. Even so, he decides to support Ritsuko's feelings.

★

After moving up to the next grade, Kaoru and Sentarou end up in different classes. They meet with a series of misunderstandings, but made up after an impromptu performance at the culture festival! In contrast to his painful feelings for Ritsuko, his friendship with Sen deepens.

★

Sen gets into a fight with Jun-nii, who had returned from Tokyo, because of Yurika. He loses all hope upon seeing Yurika in Jun-nii's room. At that point, Kaoru tries to hint at Ritsuko's feelings for Sen, but both Ritsuko's and Sen's feelings were not what Kaoru expected...!?

★

At the end of the year, Sen refuses to see Jun-nii off. But with Kaoru's persuasion, they decide to have a serious battle through a Jazz session for the last time.

★

One day, Kaoru finds a pair of handmade gloves from Ritsuko on the piano. He tells himself not to get his hopes up... And was not able to come to terms with his feelings. He runs a fever and faints, and when Ritsuko comes over to visit, he confessed to her again, and was accepted this time.

★

In the summer of their third year, Kaoru and Sen were both looking forward to playing in the culture festival. However, at the same time, Sen's father returns to the family. Feeling a sense of guilt towards him, Sen attempts to leave the house, but is tackled by Kaoru, and finally musters up the determination to face his father.

★

After Ritsuko joins them as a vocalist, they practice hard for the day of the festival. However, on the day of their performance, Sen disappears after getting into a bike accident with his sister. In the process of searching for Sen, Kaoru finds out that Sen was actually an abandoned child. Trying to force himself to accept the fact that "Sen will never return", he pushes his emotions on Ritsuko, and tells her that he is leaving for a university in Tokyo...

Character Introduction

Nishimi Kaoru

Third year.

Transferred from the city of Yokosuka in the summer of his first year.

Lives with his uncle and aunt.

Has played the piano since he was a child, and loves Jazz now.

Kawabuchi Sentarou

Kaoru's only friend, and a notorious delinquent.

Has a cheerful disposition, and plays Jazz drums.

He is of mixed parentage, and has been raised by his uncle and aunt, but is actually an abandoned child discovered at the church.

Mukae Ritsuko

Sentarou's childhood friend.

She is a simple and caring girl.

She has liked Sentarou, but fell in love with the gentle Kaoru.

Is now in a relationship with Kaoru.

Fukahori Yurika

Sentarou's first love, an upperclassman. She falls in love with Junichi, and leaves town with him.

Katsuragi Junichi

Sentarou calls him Jun-nii. He returns in defeat after getting involved in political activism in Tokyo. He returns to Tokyo as a reporter on an invitation from his senpai.

Mukae Tsutomu

Ritsuko's dad owns a record shop. His hobby is to practice Jazz in the basement studio of his shop.

Matsuoka Seiji

He asks Sentarou to play for his band, but was rejected in the end. He was raised in a poor family. His dream is to become a star and support his family.

Maruo Shigetora

Kaoru's classmate. A diligent student, he is also in the radio club. He looks up to Kaoru, but it appears to be one-sided.

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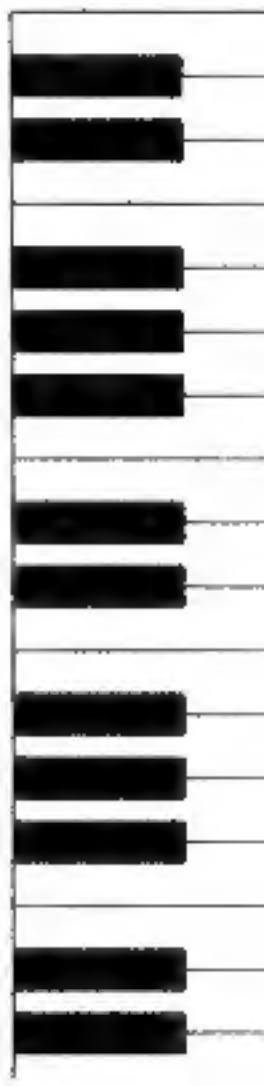


＊flowersフラワーコミックスα＊

SCENE41

I'M IN GINZA RIGHT NOW.

CAN I COME SEE YOU?

...ACTUALLY,

...YES,

THE EXAMINATIONS ARE OVER.

...I'M NOT SURE,

BUT I DID MY BEST.

I'M GLAD...

IF I MANAGE TO GET INTO UNIVERSITY,

WE CAN MEET EVERY DAY.

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET AGAIN LIKE THIS.

THAT'S JUST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE ...

I SEE...

YOU'RE RIGHT ...!

OH,

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FRIEND?

THE BOY WITH THE HEARTY APPETITE!

WE CAN'T SAY FOR SURE YET, MOM.

HAHA.

...YEAH,

PROBABLY.

WHAT ABOUT HIM?

IS HE GOING TO REMAIN IN KYUSHU?

OH, REALLY?

I WAS ACTUALLY EXPECTING THE BOTH OF YOU,

TO TALK THINGS OUT,

AND DECIDE TO BRING YOUR MUSIC TO TOKYO TOGETHER.

...

I'M PLANNING ON BECOMING A DOCTOR,

SO I HAVE TO FOCUS ON MY STUDIES FROM NOW ON.

I'LL DO MY BEST TO BECOME A RESPECTABLE DOCTOR.

WORTHY OF THE NISHIMI FAMILY NAME.

I CAN'T BE FOOLING AROUND ALL THE TIME.

THAT'S RIGHT.

.....

AND EVENTUALLY LEAVE THAT PLACE.

IN ACCORDANCE TO MY FAMILY'S WISHES, I WILL GO TO A UNIVERSITY IN TOKYO,

IT WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS DECIDED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

kya!!

kyahaha!

ahaha!

AH...

kyaa!

stop it!

ahahaha!

ahahaha!
kyahaha!

第18回 卒業証書授

...NOT REALLY.

IT'S A PITY, THAT WE CAN'T GRADUATE TOGETHER.

THEY DIDN'T CALL...

KAWABUCHI-KUN'S NAME.

SINCE EVERYONE WILL END UP PARTING WAYS.

IT DOESN'T MATTER, WHETHER WE GRADUATE TOGETHER OR NOT,

...!

I'M SURE EVERYONE WILL... FORGET ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL IN NO TIME.

ARE YOU GOING TO FORGET ABOUT ME, TOO?

what's going on?

a confession?

THAT'S JUST TOO DEPRESSING!

DON'T SAY SUCH LONELY THINGS, NISHIMI-KUN!!

I WON'T EVER FORGET YOU!!

NISHIMI KUUUN!

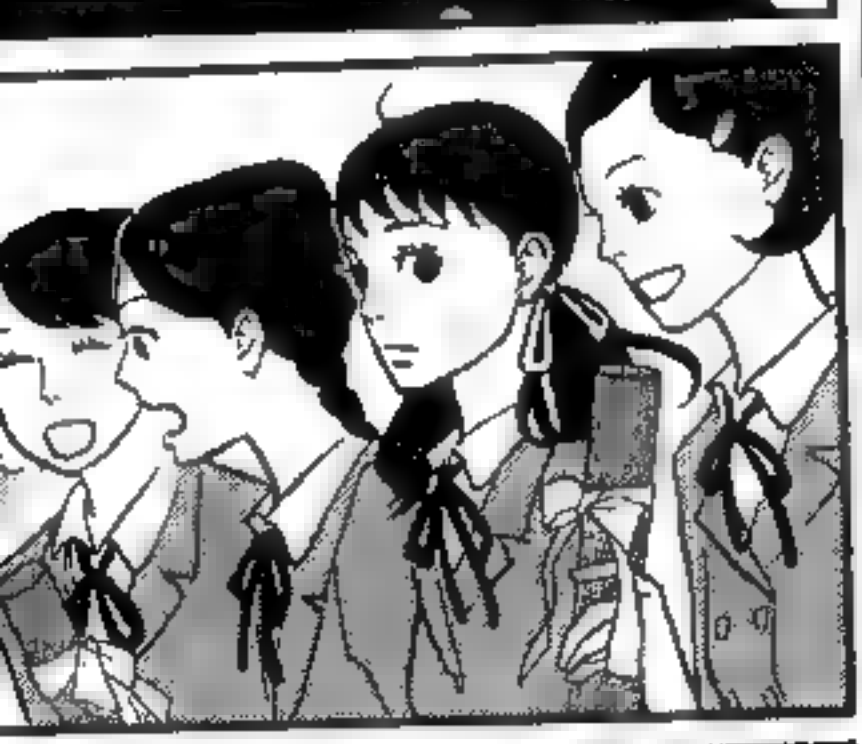
did he succeed?

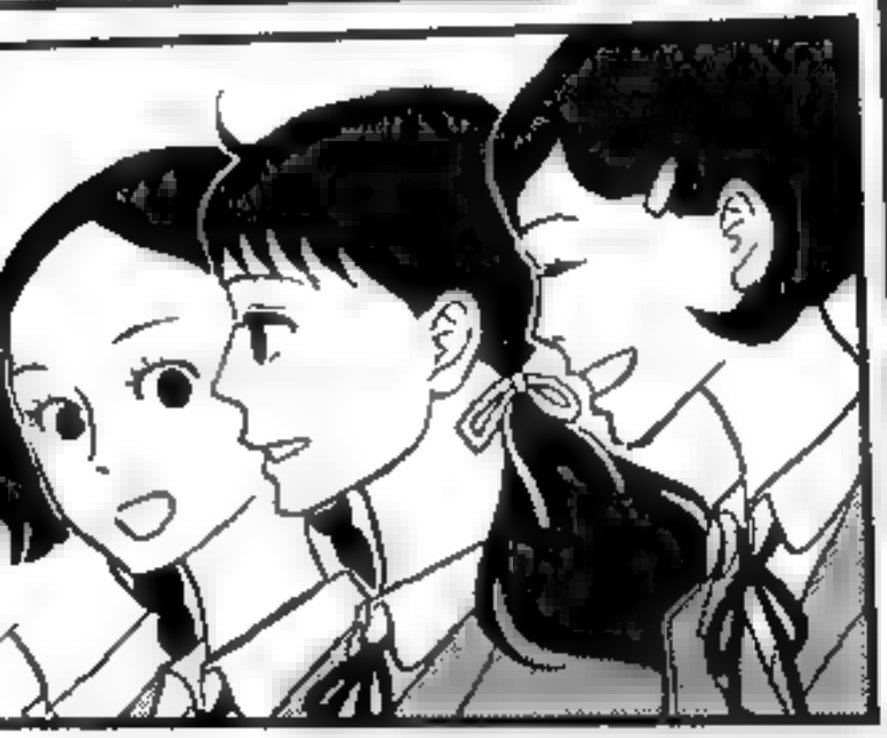
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING ...

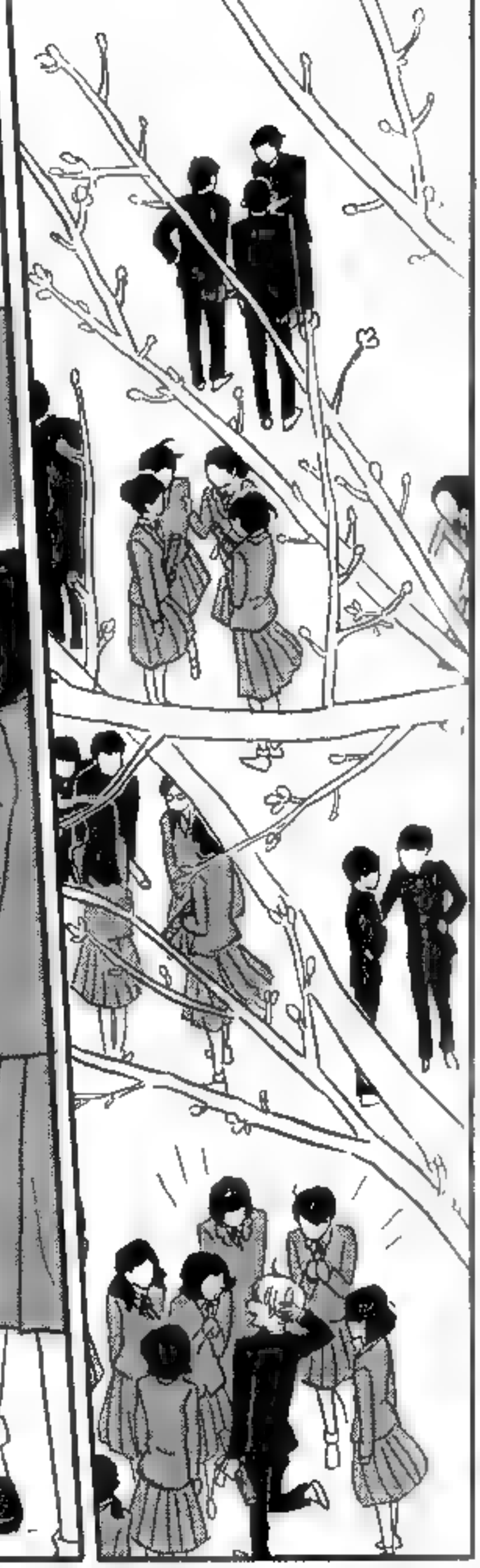
...
YOU'RE RIGHT.

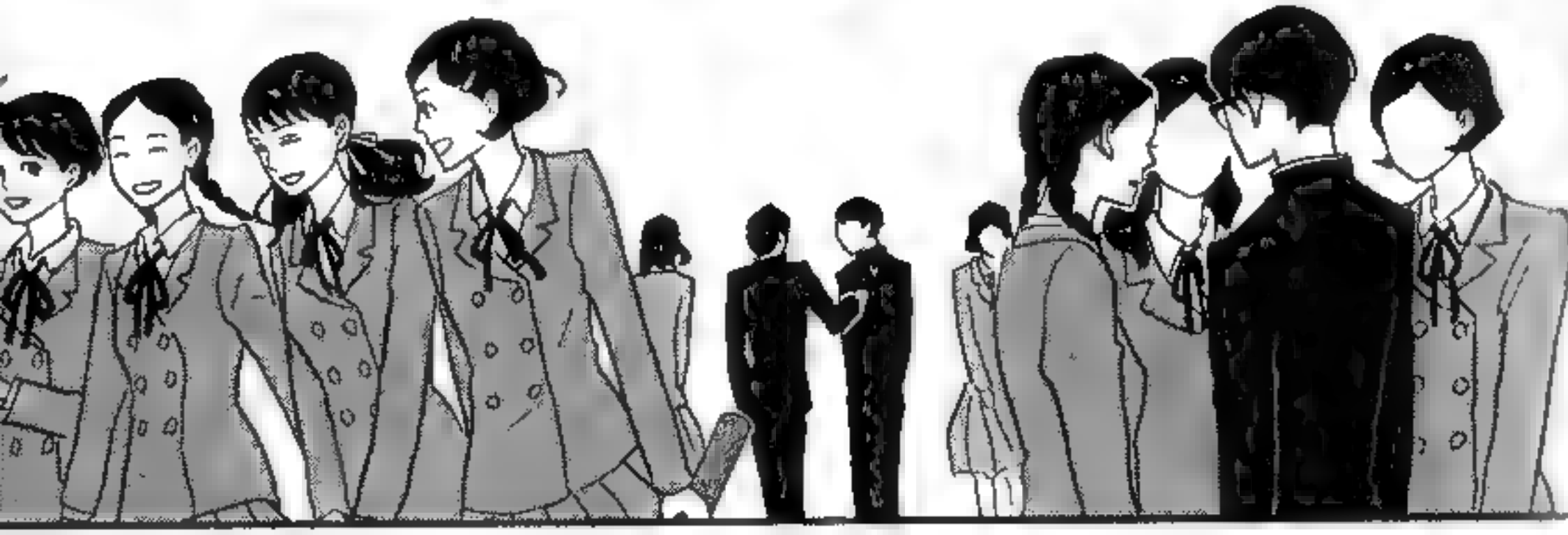
SORRY.

I WON'T FORGET ABOUT YOU.









IT'S THE LAST TIME WE'LL BE CLIMBING THIS SLOPE!

YOU BETTER NOT BE HERE TOMORROW OUT OF HABIT!

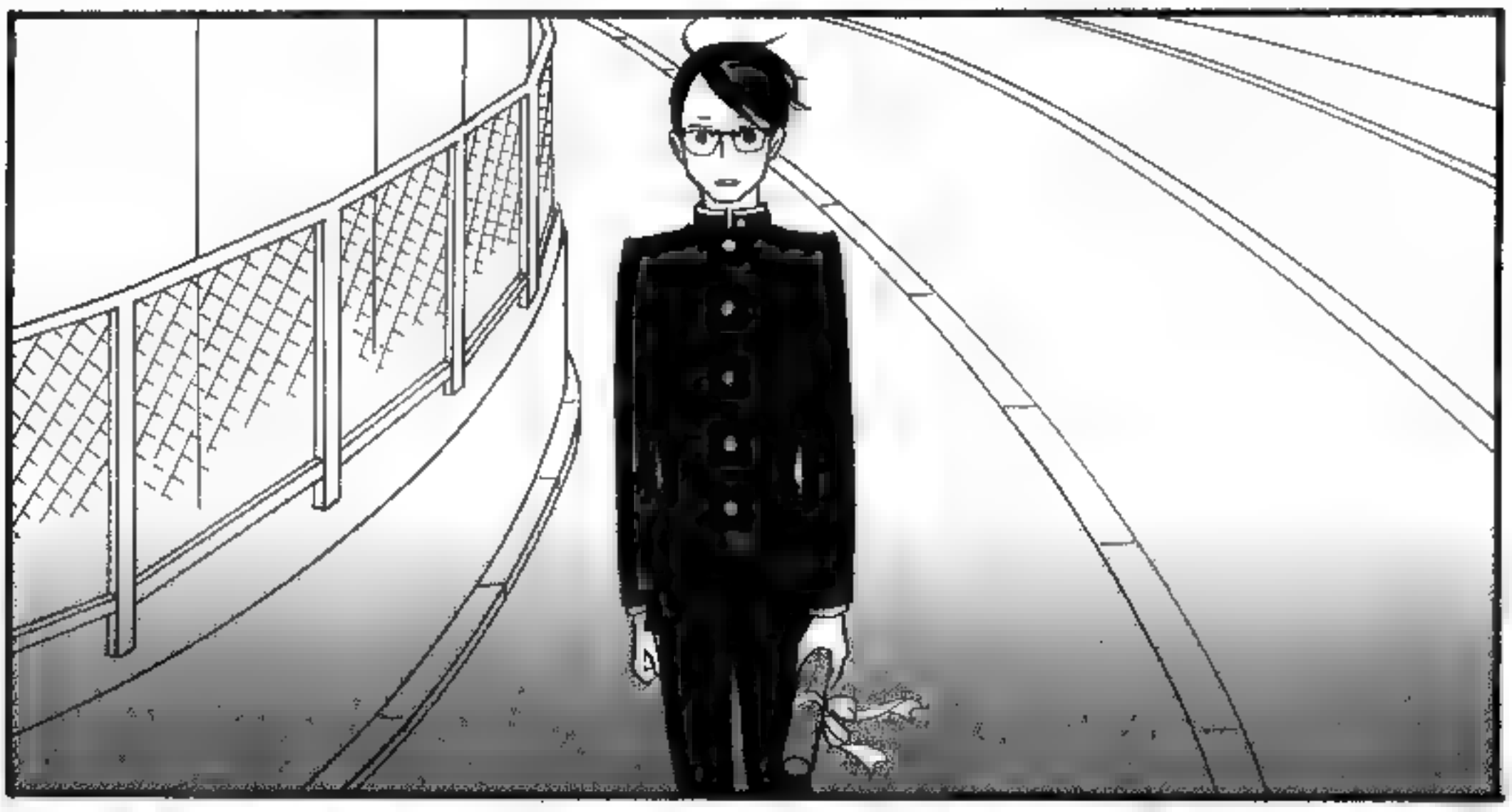
haha!

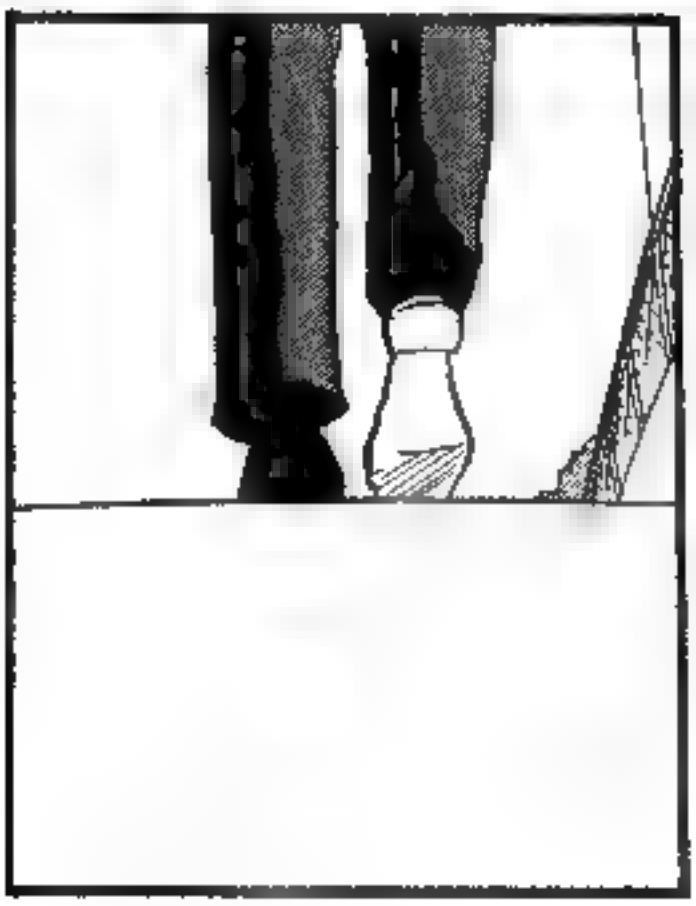
BUT THIS IS THE LAST TIME.

IT HASN'T QUITE SUNK IN YET.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, BON?

LET'S RACE TO THE SHOP!





OH!

NOW THAT'S RARE!

RECORD SH

I'M SORRY...

I,

...HAHA, I WAS JUST KIDDING.

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

...IT'S BEEN SOME TIME.

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND IN AGES!

MODERN JAZZ IS ALL ABOUT IMPROVISATION.

WHEN THE BASSIST, SCOTT LAFARO DIED IN AN ACCIDENT,

EVEN BILL EVANS, COULDN'T BRING HIMSELF TO PLAY THE PIANO FOR A WHILE.

I SUPPOSE YOUR MOTIVATION FOR PLAYING WOULD, TOO.

HAVING PLAYED TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME,

WHEN THE PERSON YOU'VE BEEN MAKING MUSIC WITH IS GONE,

AH,

AREN'T YOUR APPLICATION RESULTS OUT SOON...?

SPEAKING OF WHICH,

YES.

Y, YES ...

I'M VERY SORRY ...

STILL ...

YOU COULD HAVE VISITED A LITTLE MORE OFTEN, COULDN'T YOU?

I KNOW THAT YOU WERE BUSY WITH EXAMS, BUT ...

.....

BON, YOU ARE A REAL GENIUS, AREN'T YOU?

faculty of medicine... at K uni...?

CON-GRATU-LATIONS!

WHICH UNIVERSITY IS IT?

THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE AT K UNIVERSITY.

I WAS ACCEPTED ...

THINGS WILL GET LONELY...

SO YOU'LL BE LEAVING TOO.

I SEE...

THAT'S RIGHT,

TODAY'S THE RELEASE OF THE RESULTS FOR THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY,

AND RITSUKO GOT IN!

YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL SAD ABOUT IT

IT'S GREAT THAT YOU WERE ACCEPTED!

... AH, I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY.

.....

?

THAT'S STRANGE, SHE SHOULD BE UP THERE.

there's no response

IT'S FINE, UNCLE.

ARE YOU THERE?

BON GOT INTO HIS UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE!

RITSUKO!

COME DOWN!

RICCHAN!!

ガラガラ

EH?

YOU PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY NOW,

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST TELL YOU.

I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT TIME!

I WASN'T THINKING STRAIGHT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME OUT,

SO JUST STAY THERE AND LISTEN!

SHOP•MUKA

THE REASON WHY I STARTED COMING HERE,

IS BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE YOUR SMILE.

WHEN RICCHAN SMILES.

IT'S LIKE THERE ARE FLOWERS BLOSSOMING IN MY HEART,

I WAS REALLY HAPPY.

I FELT REALLY FORTUNATE!

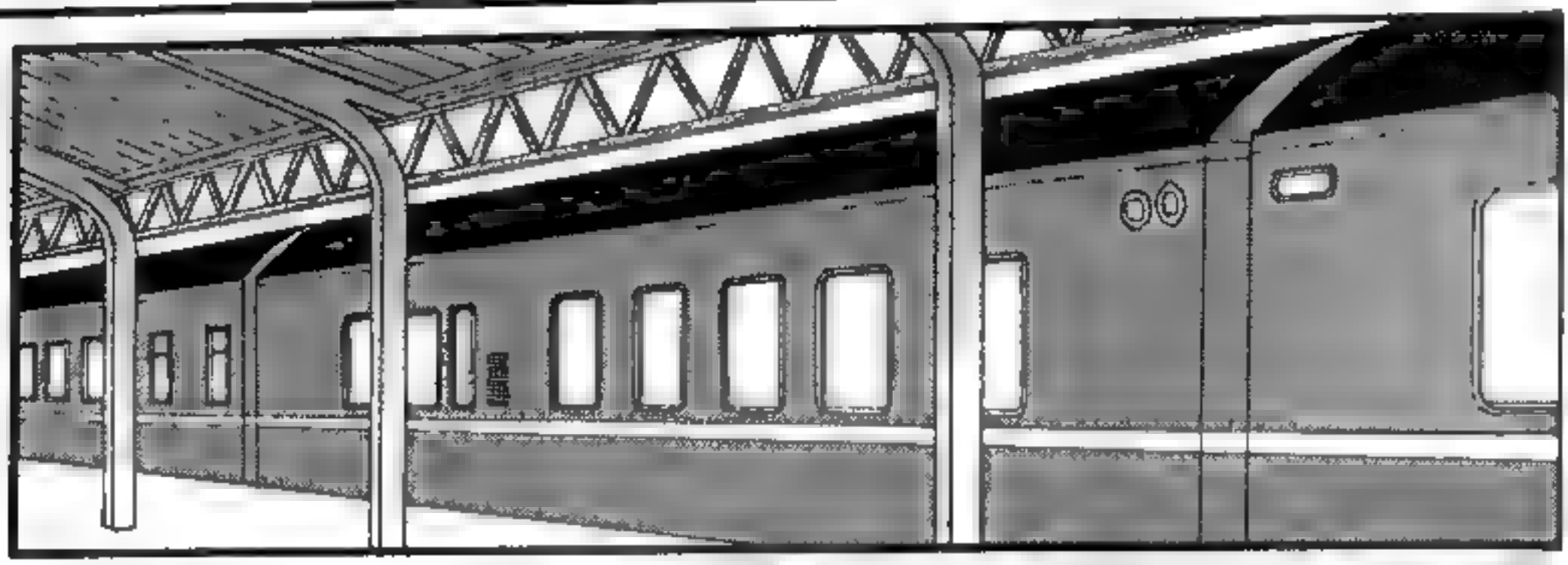
I NEVER KNEW THAT FALLING IN LOVE,

WOULD BRING SUCH HAPPINESS.

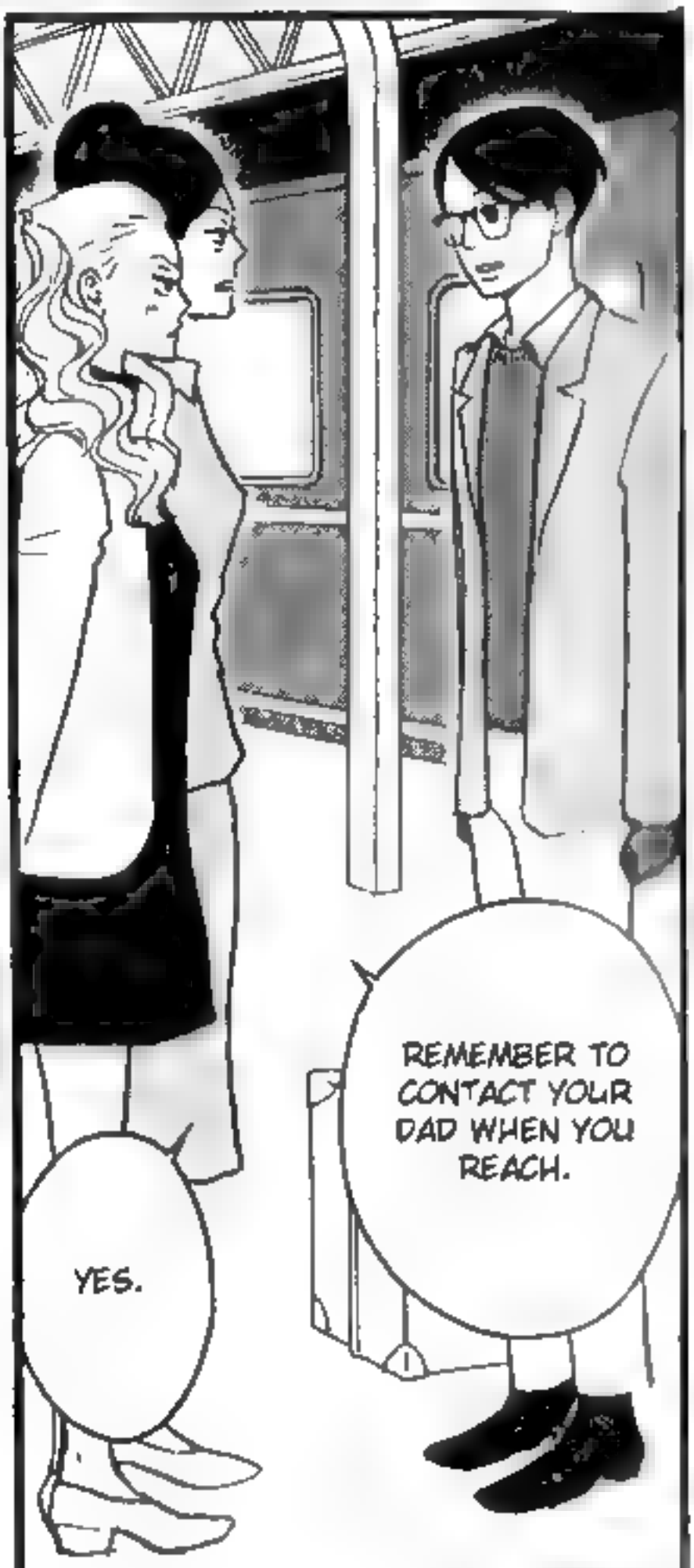
I'VE COME TO KNOW THIS ONLY AFTER I MET YOU.

THANK YOU, RICCHAN.

I'M GLAD I MET YOU.



HEY!
I'VE BEEN IN YOUR CARE...


YES.
REMEMBER TO CONTACT YOUR DAD WHEN YOU REACH.

OH.
WE'RE JUST IN TIME!

.....

.....

THOSE GLOVES...

...AH,

YEAH.

I HAD THEM ON DURING THE EXAMINATIONS, TOO.

IT'S STILL A LITTLE COLD OUTSIDE ...

THEY WERE WARM, AND COMFORTING ...

IT MAY BE THANKS TO THESE THAT I MANAGED TO PASS.

I WISH I HADN'T GIVEN THEM TO YOU.

THEN,

...I SEE.

...
I'M KIDDING.

THAT WAS A LIE.

CONGRATU-LATIONS, KAORU-SAN.

THERE'S ALSO A FAREWELL GIFT FROM ME INSIDE.

SORRY IF IT'S A LITTLE BULKY...

DAD...

WE WERE ALMOST LATE BECAUSE SHE WAS MAKING THAT!

...THIS,

IS A LUNCH BOX I MADE FOR YOU.

COME ON, DON'T LOOK SO SAD.

WE'LL SEND YOU OFF WITH A SMILE!

...KAORU-SAN,

I ALSO LIKE KAORU-SAN'S SMILE.

THE SAKURA TRAIN TOWARDS TOKYO WILL BE DEPARTING SOON-

BYE, THEN

STAY WELL!

GO ON!

IT'S LEAVING SOON,

OH,

GOOD-BYE ...

BON,

ハァ

ナ

ゴトン

ガタン

"BON,"

"THIS IS JUST MY GUESS, BUT..."

"I THINK HE MIGHT HAVE GONE TO TOKYO, TOO."

SCENE 42

*BARRICADE STRIKE: A FORM OF STUDENT ACTIVISM. A BARRICADE IS FORMED AROUND THE CAMPUS GROUNDS, PREVENTING THE STAFF AND STUDENTS FROM ENTERING AND THUS STOPPING THE UNIVERSITY FROM FUNCTIONING

*ORGS: GROUPS RECRUITING PEOPLE TO HELP THEM IN THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

SEEMS LIKE THIS BARRICADE STRIKE IS GOING TO GO ON FOR A WHILE.

I WONDER WHEN WILL CLASSES RESUME.

EVER SINCE TERM STARTED, WE HAVEN'T BEEN ATTENDING MOST OF THE CLASSES THANKS TO THE STRIKE.

AT THIS RATE, WE'LL ALL HAVE TO REPEAT A YEAR.

I ran take the national examination, then it doesn't matter either way.

we didn't enroll because we wanted to protest.

maybe should go back to my hometown.

is there a way to get the orgs off our backs?

I'VE GOT GIRLS TO JOIN US FOR THE PARTY TONIGHT!

REJOICE, YOU GUYS!

SOUNDS LIKE FUN.

DID YOU HEAR THAT, NISHIMI? THEY'VE GOT GIRLS!

YEAH.

girls from law, or literature?

nope! econs.

ooh!

IF YOU WERE THE ONE TO INVITE THEM, I BET THEY'RE ALL BEAUTIFUL!

WELL, YEAH.

wanted to go to t univer-sity!

OF COURSE.

.....

ENJOYING YOURSELF?

YOU ARE ...

NISHIMI-KUN?

WAHAHA!

the night's still young

shut up and follow me

nahaha!

it's maeda's treat!

HEY,

I'M SURE YOU'RE BORED OF THIS.

SHALL WE ESCAPE?

HEHE!

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

NO IDEA.

ARE YOU STAYING IN THE DORMS, NISHIMI-KUN?

...NO,

I LIVE IN AN APARTMENT NEARBY.

WELL THEN, I NEED A FAVOUR.

THE BOARDING HOUSE I'M STAYING AT IS PRETTY STRICT, SO I CAN'T GO BACK NOW.

IT'S PAST MY CURFEW.

CAN I SPEND THE NIGHT AT YOUR PLACE?

IF YOU DON'T MIND,

YOU'RE VERY KIND.

THANK YOU.

YOU CAN USE MY BED...

I'LL SLEEP ON THE FLOOR.

OH, IT'S FOR A GIRL...

...HM, YOU LIKE WRITING LETTERS?

FROM NAGA-SAKI...?

IT'S OVER ONCE YOU LEAVE HER.

YOU WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S DOING NOW.

DID YOU,

LEAVE YOUR GIRLFRIEND BEHIND?

.....

MAYBE SHE,

STOP IT...

HAS SOMEONE WITH HER, JUST LIKE YOU DO NOW.

...OH?

FOR A CHANGE OF PACE.

HEY, CAN I PUT ON SOME MUSIC?

...WELL, THAT DOESN'T MATTER.

DON'T TOUCH IT!

EW, IT'S DIRTY...

WHY DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

WHY THE SUDDEN-

I SAID, GET OUT!

WHAT...?

GET OUT!

FINE, I GET IT!

HOW SILLY.

I FEEL LIKE A FOOL NOW.

I DON'T HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU HERE, SO TRY SOMEONE ELSE.

.....

MUKAE RITSUKO

SEE, IT'S THAT GIRL.

SHE'S WITH A DIFFERENT GUY AGAIN.

MAYBE IT'S ANOTHER MED STUDENT.

are you in your first year? how about joining the protests?

"DEAR KAORU-SAN"

"EVERY DAY, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT KAORU-SAN"

"LIKE IF YOU'VE BEEN EATING PROPERLY; OR IF YOU'VE MADE NEW FRIENDS"

"THE MEMBERS ARE ALL NICE AND INTERESTING PEOPLE"

"I'VE JOINED THE JUVENILE LITERATURE CLUB WITH A FRIEND"

"THE WEATHER HAS BEEN WARM RECENTLY. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?"

"I'M DOING FINE."

"RICCHAN,"

"I'VE BEEN GETTING ALONG WITH MY CLASSMATES, AND EATING OUT WITH THEM."

"THERE'S BEEN A STRIKE IN MY SCHOOL, SO THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY CLASSES OR TESTS YET"

"THEY ARE ALL INTERESTING PEOPLE, AND I WISH I COULD INTRODUCE THEM TO RICCHAN TOO."

"IT'S PRETTY FUN."

ピリリ

I FOUND COMFORT ON THE ROOFTOP OF THE APARTMENT,

SOMEWHERE,

BUT WHEN THE SUN SETS,

I CAN HEAR THE FAINT SOUNDS OF JAZZ.

AND TO RUN AWAY FROM THOSE SOUNDS,

I WOULD RETURN TO MY ROOM.

COME ON IN!

WELCOME! IT'S HOT TODAY, ISN'T IT?

AND IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN STAY OVER TONIGHT...

WILL YOU BE STAYING FOR DINNER?

YES.

DO YOU WANT SOME COLD TEA?

YEAH.

HANG ON, I'LL PUT SOME ICE IN.

MOM, DO YOU HAVE A LOVER?

THERE'S A...

BOTTLE OF WHISKEY, AND AN ASHTRAY HERE.

W,

WHY!?

PLEASE TELL ME HONESTLY...

I DON'T WANT TO BE AN INCONSIDERATE SON.

UM, NO, THOSE ARE MINE...

I DON'T HAVE A LOVER-

IF YOU ARE GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE,

IS IT ONE-SIDED?

BUT WE AREN'T IN THAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP...

PFF!

HE'S A CUSTOMER,

AND SOMETIMES, HE TEACHES ME HOW TO WRITE.

...THERE'S SOMEONE I'M ON GOOD TERMS WITH...

HAHA.

aren't most sons uncomfortable about these topics?

ENOUGH...

STOP TEASING YOUR ELDERS.

REALLY...

ENOUGH...

I HOPE IT GOES WELL.

SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU BECOME SO MATURE?

.....

♪ Lullaby Of Birdland,

That what I always hear.

When you ...

Never ...

in a phrase
how I feel
♩

Have you ever fu...

Bill and oo

when they love

♪

♪

And there

♪

w to cry

That's how I'd cry in my pillow.

♪

...OH,

I WAS SINGING UNCON-SCIOUSLY.

OH DEAR, YOU WERE LISTENING?

THAT'S EMBA-RASSING.

IT'S BECAUSE I'VE BEEN PRACTICING EVERY DAY WITH THE RECORD KAORU GAVE ME.

...BUT,

SINCE I CAN ONLY SING IT IN MY OWN WAY,

IT MAY SOUND HORRIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH AN EAR FOR JAZZ...

...NO.

WHEN I REMEMBER THAT THIS IS THE MUSIC KAORU LIKES,

CHRIS CONNOR

I FIND MYSELF SINGING IT ALL THE TIME,

BECAUSE IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE KAORU IS BY MY SIDE.

MOM'S SINGING,

IS VERY GOOD.

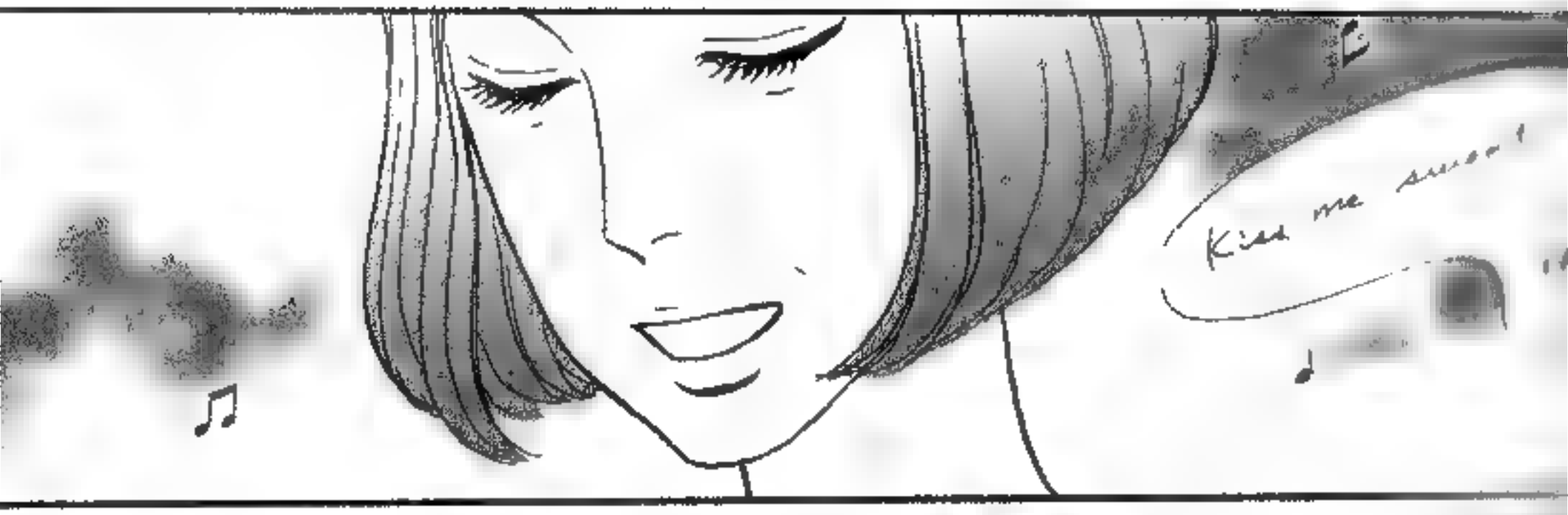
THERE'S A SWING TO IT.

of
birdland,

whisper lo

COULD YOU SING THE REST?

I WANT TO HEAR SOME MORE ...


Kiss me sweet!

AND AS CLASSES RESUMED,

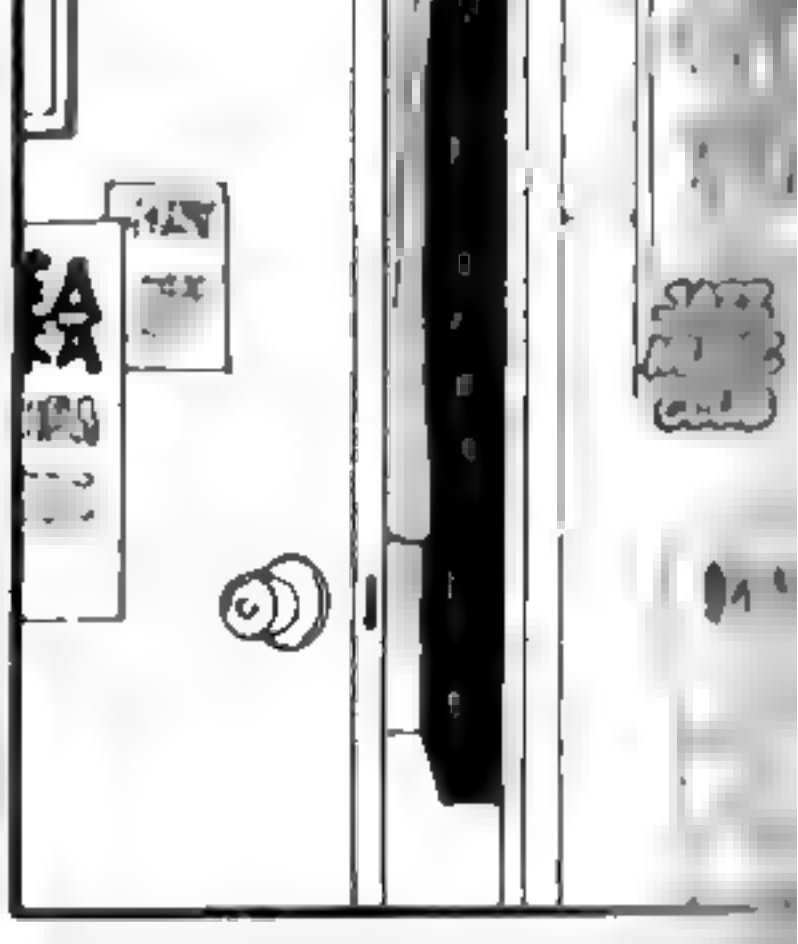
JAZZ

THE STRIKE ENDED IN AUTUMN,

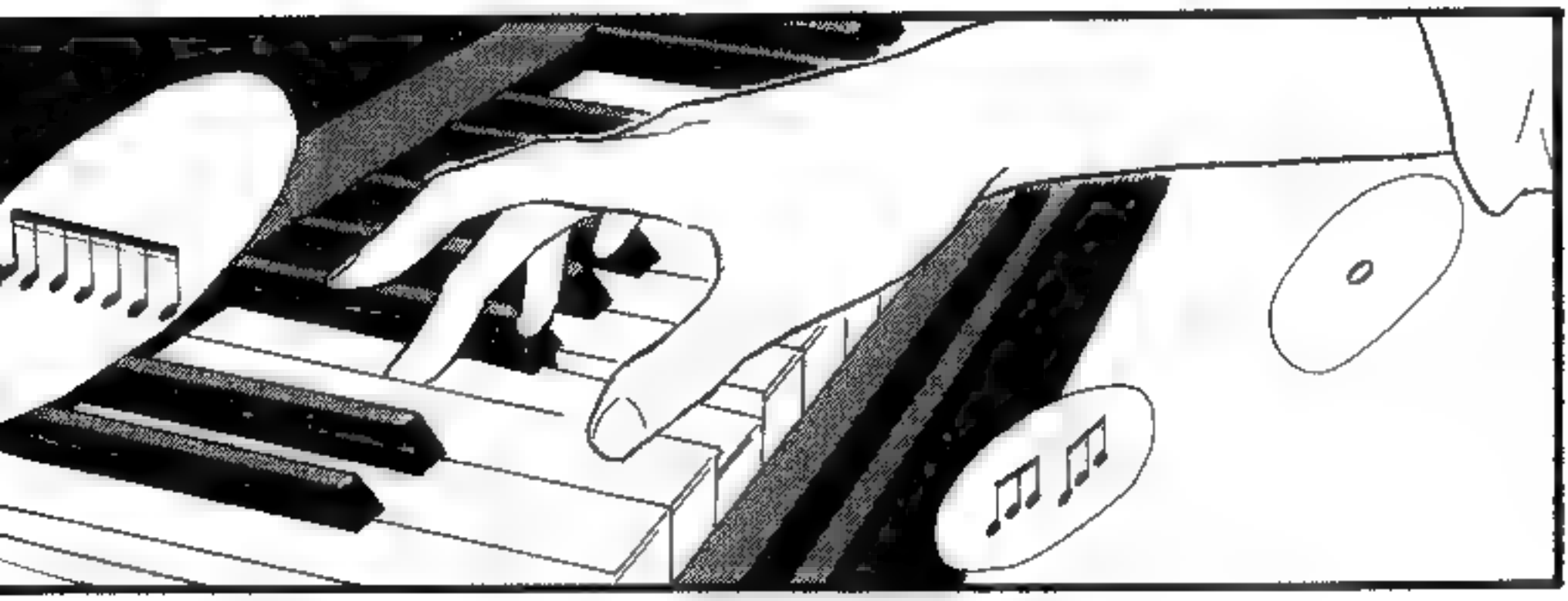
...I'M SURE,

THAT THEY HAVE ONE HERE.

I DECIDED TO GO TO THAT PLACE.



there's no one around right?



I TRIED PLAYING IT WITH A GENTLE RHYTHM,

JUST AS MOM HAD SANG IT.

"LULLABY OF BIRDLAND"

ARE MOVING ON THEIR OWN.

MY FINGERS,

……

freeze

I BETTER GO...

I GUESS I CAN'T JUST PLAY WITHOUT PERMISSION...

……

JAZZ BAR

IT FEELS GOOD,

AND I CAN'T STOP.

11°
F
ART
BLAKEY
AND
THE
JAZZ
MES
SEN
CEPS
BLUE
NOTE
4003

SCENE 43

I'M SORRY IF I GOT THE WRONG PERSON,

TO PLAY THE PIANO THE OTHER DAY,

AREN'T YOU?

BUT YOU ARE THE ONE WHO SNEAKED INTO THE CLUB ROOM,

it was on impulse...! i won't do it again! please let me go!

じたばた

extremists?

what's going on?

I'M VERY SORRY!

がし

WAIT!

AH ...

U, UM...

...YES.

REALLY THE ONE WHO PLAYED THE PIANO?

I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF,

BECAUSE THERE WASN'T ANYONE ELSE AROUND.

I'M SORRY FOR USING THE CLUBROOM WITHOUT PERMISSION.

JAZZ研究会

がし

カサ

...WERE YOU,

yup

yep.

WE WELCOME YOU FROM THE VERY BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS!

THANK YOU FOR COMING!

UM,

I DIDN'T ...

COME HERE WITH THAT INTENTION...

TO START OF, LET'S PLAY "SUMMERTIME"-

EH?

WAIT...

YOU SEE, OUR PIANIST LEFT TO BECOME AN ACTIVIST, SO YOU ARE A SAVIOUR!

I WAS LOOKING AROUND FOR PEOPLE WHO COULD PLAY FOR US,

BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THAT SOMEONE WOULD COME TO US INSTEAD!

NOW!

TOLD YOU!

HE'S PLAYING!

I HANDED IN THE CLUB APPLICATION FORM.

ON THE VERY SAME DAY,

入部届

I HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE JAZZ CLUBROOM.

OH!

I'M SORRY, BUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO FOR A WHILE!

HEY, NISHIMI!

WANT TO COME TO THE PARTY TONIGHT?!

AFTER CLASSES,

FROM THE NEXT DAY ONWARDS,

oh, really

.....

I WONDER WHY...

BUT MY FINGERS AREN'T MOVING AS I WANT THEM TO...

HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO PLAYING WITH US?

YOU DID A BRILLANT ADLIB TODAY!

REALLY...?

I'VE LOST MY TOUCH.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I STOPPED FOR A YEAR...

I NEED TO PRACTICE MORE...

THERE'S A BAR IN SHINJUKU, AND THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A JAZZ PIANIST.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, I'LL INTRODUCE YOU...

HEY, NISHIMI-KUN,

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A PART-TIME JOB?

A PART-TIME JOB...?

COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE WAS A FAMOUS JAZZ BAR IN SHINJUKU...

MAYBE IT'S A PLACE LIKE THAT...

A BAR, HUH...

JUGETSUDO

THE REST OF THE BAND WILL BE COMING SOON,

THEY'LL BRIEF YOU WHEN THEY GET HERE.

I'LL LEAVE THE SONG SELECTION TO YOU GUYS!

.....

eh?

WELL ...

I'D SAY OUR PLACE IS MORE LIKE A NIGHTCLUB THAN A BAR.

GOOD EVENING!

OKAY ...

BUT I'M COUNTING ON YOU ALL TO SET THE MOOD FOR SLOW DANCES!

HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THAT YOU LOOK LIKE HIM?

YOUR FACE RESEMBLES BILL EVANS!

SO YOU'RE THE NEW PIANIST!

ARE YOU STILL STUDYING?

YES.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR GLASSES.

REALLY? THE RESEMBLANCE IS THERE, THOUGH.

NO.

.....

AH, YES!

WE NEED TO START OUR SOUND CHECK NOW.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

IT'S A JOB WELL DONE, FOR YOUR FIRST TIME.

YOU EVEN MANAGED TO TAKE REQUESTS.

YOU WERE PRETTY GOOD!

CAN YOU COME REGULARLY STARTING TOMORROW?

YOU NEED TO SMILE MORE!

CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT EXPRESSIONLESS FACE WHEN YOU'RE PLAYING?

BUT,

HEY,

AND,

ON WEEKDAYS, YOU JUST HAVE TO PLAY THE PIANO.

AND ON WEEKENDS, YOU CAN PLAY WITH THE BAND AS YOU HAVE TODAY.

HOW ABOUT IT?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO SMILE.

THE JAZZ I PLAYED AT THE BAR,

WAS JUST FOR ATMOSPHERE, AND I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH FREEDOM TO PLAY AS I WISHED.

IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE KIND OF JAZZ I WANT TO PLAY, BUT...

.....

...WAS I,

REALLY THAT EXPRESSION-LESS...?

I COULD SAVE THE MONEY,

AND BUY SOME JAZZ RECORDS.

I'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY THE PIANO AS MUCH AS I WANT.

FROM NOW ON,

THE JAZZ CLUB, AND THE PART-TIME JOB.

IT'S WONDERFUL.

ガチャン

SIGH...

I COULD HEAR,

IN MY HEAD,

REVERBERATING ENDLESSLY.

THE SOUNDS OF THE PIANO,

"JAZZ IS FUN."

"AS I THOUGHT."

"IF I JUST CONTINUE PLAYING."

"I'LL BE FINE,"

7

"...EH?"

WAKE UP, WE'RE DOING A DISSECTION NEXT.

WE NEED TO GO.

.....

WHAT WAS THAT...?

MAYBE I NEED MORE REST...

I HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING MUCH LATELY BECAUSE OF THE JOB.

HEY.

"WHERE AM I?"

"GET HERE?"

"HOW DID I..."

♪ ♪

♪

THIS IS BAD.

.....

ON TOP OF THAT,

THE EXAMINATIONS ARE NEXT WEEK...

.....

AH...

.....

I HAVE PHYSIOLOGY HOMEWORK...

.....

ナデナデ

AH, YOU'RE GOING BACK ALREADY? LET'S DRINK TOGETHER!

I'M DONE FOR TODAY.

can't

I'M SORRY.

WAA!

!!

I THINK,

I LEFT THE NOTES HERE ...

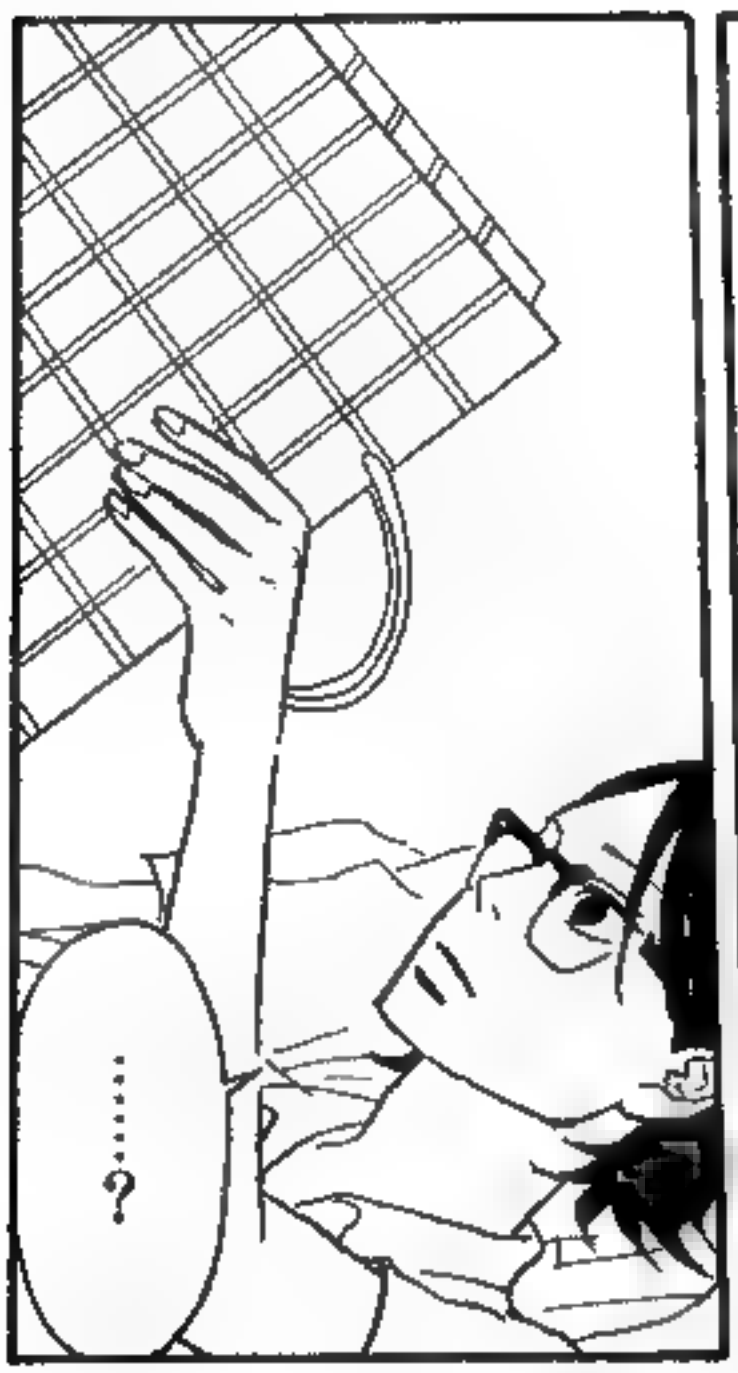
ばら、

.....

AH...

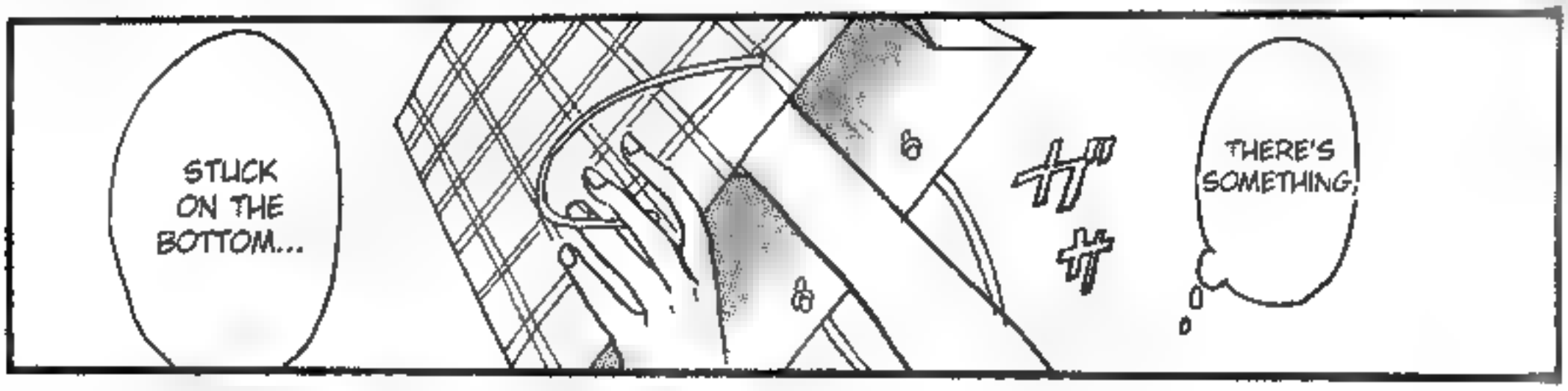
... I CAN'T,

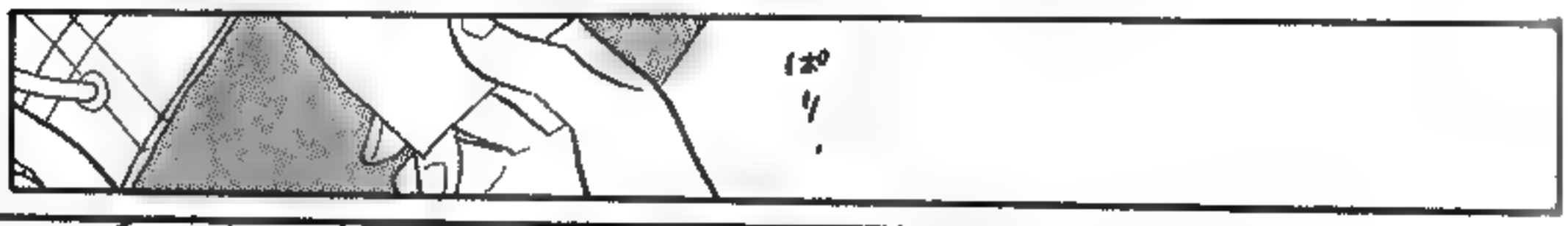
DO THIS ANYMORE ...


.....?

COME TO THINK OF IT,
I HAVEN'T WRITTEN TO RICCHAN YET...
I HOPE SHE ISN'T ANGRY.

BAG WITH THE FAREWELL GIFTS...
THAT'S THE...


STUCK ON THE BOTTOM...
THERE'S SOMETHING.



SEN,

HERE I AM.

TRYING MY BEST TO FORGET ABOUT YOU.

SEN.

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

...HEY,

STOP SMILING, AND SAY SOMETHING!

YOU...

WHY AREN'T YOU HERE!

WHERE DID YOU GO...?

IDIO...

...?

ハラハラ

To the two idiots.

Friendship is for life

Since 19■■, ■nd forever

HAHA!

"FOREVER"?

AHAHAHA, HE'S AN IDIOT!

HAHA ...

WHAT'S THIS?

...HA,

.....

"FRIENDSHIP IS"

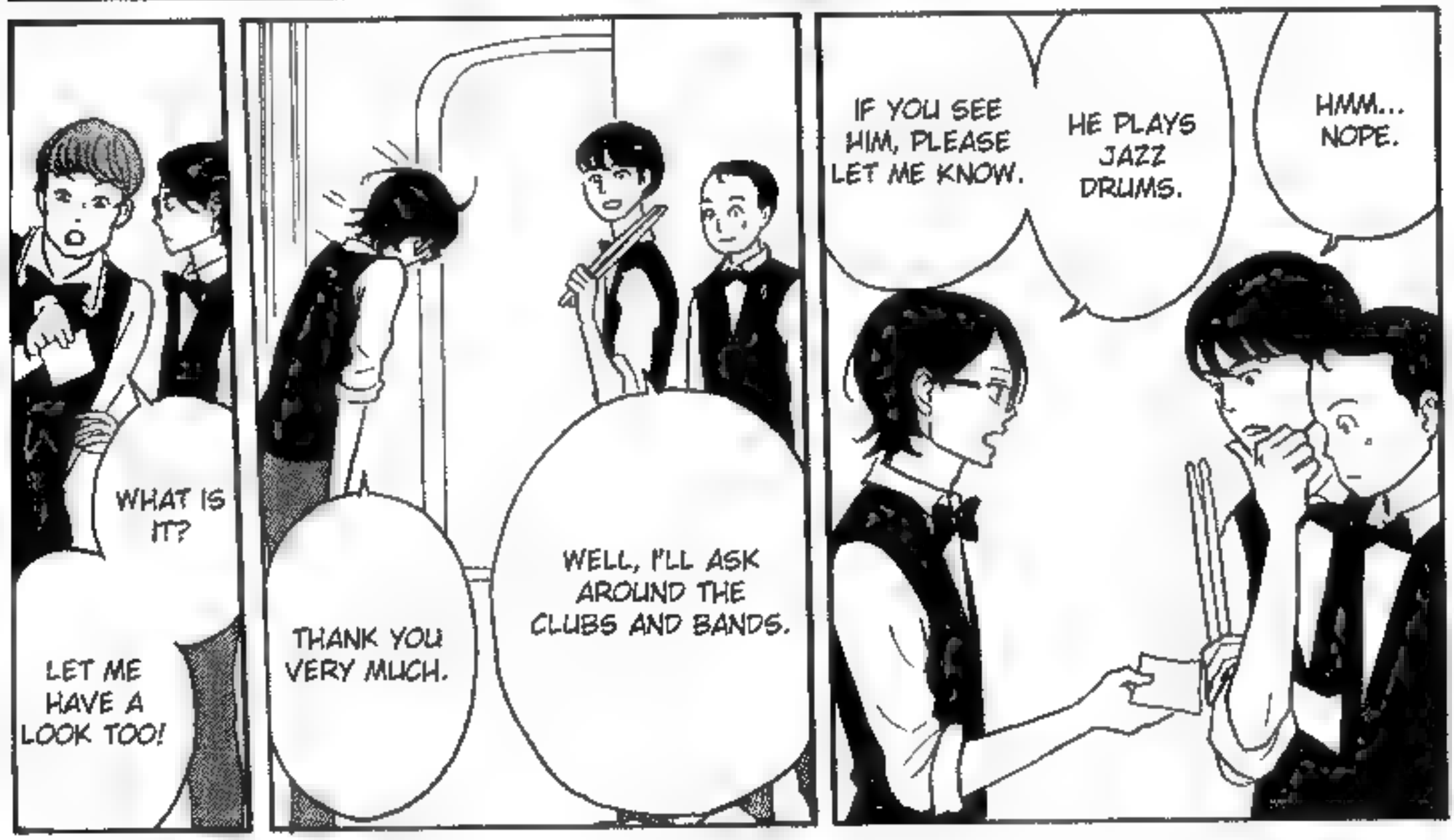
"FOR LIFE."

...I WONDER

WHERE HE IS NOW.

WHERE...

HAVE YOU SEEN HIM BEFORE?
I'M LOOKING FOR THIS PERSON.


WHAT IS IT?
LET ME HAVE A LOOK TOO!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
WELL, I'LL ASK AROUND THE CLUBS AND BANDS.
IF YOU SEE HIM, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.
HE PLAYS JAZZ DRUMS.
HMM... NOPE.

NOTHING IN PARTICU-LAR...

WHAT MADE YOU THINK THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOKYO?

YOU SAID THAT HE WENT MISSING IN KYUSHU?

I WANT TO MEET HIM TOO!

WOW!

HE'S GOOD-LOOKING!

.....

I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE IS.

BUT... AS LONG AS THERE'S THE TINEST STRAND OF HOPE,

I WANT TO DO MY BEST AND NOT GIVE UP.

THE WORLD SEEMS LARGE, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE SMALL.

YOU MIGHT FIND HIM IN NO TIME.

I'LL TRY TO ASK THE CUSTOMERS ABOUT HIM.

ON TOP OF THE MUSIC SCENE HERE, IT'S ALSO THE MOST PROFITABLE.

WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT AS A DRUMMER, HE WOULD WANT TO COME TO TOKYO TO PERFORM.

LOOK AT HIM!

HE SEEMS LESS TROUBLED THAN BEFORE.

I want a copy of that photo-

ヒッ

eh...

give it back

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

"I'VE PICKED UP JAZZ AGAIN."

"SORRY FOR NOT WRITING TO YOU."

"RICCHAN,"

"BUT RECENTLY, I'M STARTING TO ENJOY MYSELF."

"I HAD TROUBLE GETTING BACK MY OLD TOUCH AT FIRST,"

AND...

.....

SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO ON MY OWN.

THIS IS,

I GUESS I DON'T HAVE TO TELL HER...

THAT I'M LOOKING FOR HIM NOW.

POST

IF I CAN'T FIND HIM,

BY MYSELF.

I'LL JUST HAVE TO SWALLOW THE DISAPPOINTMENT

A MOMENT PLEASE!

?

ﾁｬﾗﾗﾗﾗﾗ

HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT WANTING TO JOIN IN...

THERE WAS A TROUBLESOME CUSTOMER AT THE COUNTER.

WHEN YOU WERE PERFORMING,

AND HANDSOME...

HE'S SOBER! AND HE'S RATHER PUSHY...

BUT YOU SEE ...

WHAT!? HE'S PROBABLY DRUNK, JUST IGNORE HIM.

YOU'VE FINALLY NOTICED.

I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO NOTICE.

HEY, CAN I JOIN YOU GUYS FOR JUST ONE SONG?

I'VE GOT MY TRUMPET WITH ME.

JUN... NII-SAN!?

HP

.....

!!

EH ...!?

UM, THAT'S...

"NOD"

EH?

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, SINCE I'VE PLAYED ALONG TO YOUR PIANO.

WHY ARE YOU HERE ...?

JUN NII-SAN...

RIGHT, THAT'S PERFECT.

"CHERO-KEE".

WHAT WAS THE NEXT SONG?

THE SESSION COMES FIRST.

WE'LL TALK LATER.

LET'S BEGIN.

I REMEMBER,

THIS FEELING.

YES...

I CAN HEAR,

THE SOUND OF HIS DRUMS.

SCENE44

SCENE44

MY COLLEAGUE WAS HERE WITH A CLIENT THE OTHER DAY,

AND HE HEARD ABOUT YOUR SEARCH FOR SENTAROU.

...
ACTUALLY,

I HAD MY SUSPICIONS,

WHEN HE TOLD ME ABOUT THAT,

I NEVER THOUGHT JUN NII-SAN WOULD SHOW UP WITH A TRUMPET...

I'M THE ONE WHO'S SURPRISED!

AND WHEN I CAME TODAY, I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE YOU PLAYING THE PIANO.

I THOUGHT OF GIVING UP AFTER I STARTED WORKING,

ACTUALLY,

I WAS ON MY WAY BACK FROM ONE OF THOSE SESSIONS TODAY.

RECENTLY, I'VE BEEN PLAYING SESSIONS WITH SOME FRIENDS FROM UNIVERSITY.

THAT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE ...

AH,

CAN NEVER QUIT JAZZ.

...BUT IT SEEMS THAT THE BOTH OF US,

YEAH... I ONLY FOUND OUT THAT HE WAS MISSING,

AFTER I GOT IN TOUCH WITH UNCLE A FEW WEEKS AGO.

...I SUPPOSE,

YOU DON'T KNOW EITHER?

I WONDER WHERE SEN-BOU WENT...

...AND ALSO,

BUT THERE ISN'T ANY SIGN OF HIM YET...

SO I KEPT A LOOKOUT FOR HIM...

I THOUGHT THAT HE MIGHT BE IN TOKYO TOO,

DON'T GIVE UP YET, KAORU-KUN.

.....

I SEE.

nope he buys a bottle

IF I MANAGE TO FIND HIM,

THEN LET'S PLAY A SESSION TOGETHER, AGAIN.

IT'S THANKS TO YOUR PERSERVERANCE, KAORU-KUN, THAT WE WERE ABLE TO MEET AGAIN LIKE THIS.

I'LL ASK MY COLLEAGUES AND THE JAZZ PLAYERS I KNOW ABOUT HIM.

I'LL DO MY BEST TO SEARCH TOO.

YES.

.....

I'M BUSY WITH SCHOOL, SO I'M QUITTING THAT JOB AT THE END OF THE MONTH.

EH?

...

...ACTUALLY, JUN NII-SAN,

WELL, THEN.

I'LL COME AGAIN TO THE BAR WHEN I'M FREE.

THAT'S A PITY.

...I SEE.

I WAS HOPING TO PLAY TOGETHER IMPROMPTU AGAIN.

SO I HAVE TO FOCUS ON MY STUDIES.

I'M IN MED SCHOOL NOW...

REALLY?

I'LL GO AS A NORMAL CUSTOMER THEN, BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH.

HAHA.

I DON'T THINK THE OWNER WOULD ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN AGAIN.

THE CUSTOMERS WERE PRETTY SURPRISED, TOO.

I'LL BE TAKING THE TRAIN, SO SEE YOU NEXT TIME.

YES, BYE.

I GOT TO SEE JUN NII-SAN AGAIN.

I'M SO GLAD.

I'VE PLAYED SUCH A FUN SESSION.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE...

AH.

東京

長崎市平野町二-三
迎律子
MUKAE
RITSUKO

"I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT YOU PICKED UP JAZZ AGAIN."

"DEAR KAORU-SAN,"

"I'M SORRY FOR SENDING OUT A LATE REPLY TOO."

"I FEEL A SENSE OF HAPPINESS, JUST BY IMAGINING KAORU-SAN PLAYING THE PIANO"

"TODAY, AT WORK..."

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER."

"RICCHAN,"

ABOUT ALL THESE HAPPY THINGS.

I WANT YOU TO BE THE FIRST TO KNOW,

"IT'S SUCH A COINCIDENCE, FOR THAT TO HAPPEN IN THE DENSE CITY OF TOKYO."

"THAT'S AMAZING."

"ALSO, IT'S JUST LIKE JUN-NII TO MAKE SUCH A FLASHY APPEARANCE!"

TODAY'S YOUR LAST DAY?

THINGS WILL GET LONELY.

COME TO THINK OF IT,

JUN NII-SAN DIDN'T COME AFTER ALL.

AND DO BRING ANY HANDSOME FRIENDS OF YOURS.

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'VE GOT TO BECOME A DOCTOR, EARN BIG BUCKS, AND COME SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS.

S, SURE.

DO COME BY ONCE IN A WHILE!

I'VE BEEN IN YOUR CARE.

"REALLY, THE BOTH OF YOU ARE SO CARELESS!"

CRAP...!

I FORGOT TO ASK FOR HIS PHONE NUMBER!

JUN NII-SAN IS WORKING IN PUBLISHING NOW...

MAYBE HE'S BUSY WITH WORK...

"DAD PROBABLY KNOWS JUN-NII'S ADDRESS, SO I CAN ASK HIM FOR YOU."

"WERE YOU TOO EXCITED AFTER PLAYING THE SESSION?"

THAT'S ALL?

...HM?

"I'M ALSO DOING MY BEST TO BECOME A TEACHER."

"KAORU-SAN, IT MAY BE TOUGH IN MED SCHOOL, BUT HANG IN THERE."

THAT'S A RELIEF...

"THE SENIORS OF THE JAZZ CLUB HAVE GRADUATED,"

...WELL,

RICCHAN'S BUSY TOO.

SHE USUALLY WRITES 3 TO 4 PAGES...

"SO THINGS ARE A LITTLE LONELY NOW, BUT I STILL GO TO THE CLUBROOM TO PLAY WHEN I'M FREE."

"IT'S FUN PLAYING SESSIONS WITH THE JUNIORS."

I'LL WRITE HER LOTS OF LETTERS.

I WANT TO LET HER KNOW,

THE GOOD THINGS THAT HAPPENED.

JUST BY IMAGINING RICCHAN'S SOFT LAUGHTER,

I...

AH,

GREETINGS

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
I'VE FINISHED MY ATTACHMENT PERIOD
AS A TEACHER
THERE HASN'T BEEN MUCH TIME TO WRITE
RECENTLY
ARE YOU STILL IN THE JAZZ CLUB?

THE WEATHER'S GETTING COLD, SO
PLEASE TAKE CARE

IT MAY BE MY IMAGINATION, BUT...

A POSTCARD...

AH, BUT...

THE GAP BETWEEN HER REPLIES IS GROWING.

RICCHAN DID MENTION HER ATTACHMENT PERIOD AND TEACHING EXAMINATION...

...EH?

.....

I CAN TALK TO RICCHAN DIRECTLY...

DID SHE GET A PHONE LINE TO HER ROOM?

SO THAT MEANS...

THIS IS ...

A TELEPHONE NUMBER...!?

I'M GETTING NERVOUS ...

COUGH)

-:CLICK:-

"KAORU-SAN?"

IF I CALL SO SUDDENLY.

I HOPE SHE WON'T BE TOO SURPRISED.

BUT SINCE IT'S A PHONE CALL...

YES?

U, UM,

MY NAME IS NISHIMI.

NO, WAIT ...

IT MIGHT BE A SHARED PHONE...

A MAN..?

NISHIMI?

COULD I GET MUKAE RITSUKO-SAN ON THE LINE, PLEASE...?

SO IT'S YOU.

OH...

WHO IS THIS?

THE PERSISTENT GUY WHO KEPT WRITING LETTERS TO RITSUKO.

チ

チ

チ

=CLICK=

COULD YOU STOP DOING THAT?

YOU'RE A NUISANCE TO RITSUKO.

ガチャン

RICCHAN IS GENTLE, SO SHE PROBABLY COULDN'T TELL ME.

I CAN FIGURE OUT THE REST.

HE CALLED HER "RITSUKO".

TIME HAD STOPPED ONLY FOR ME.

ALREADY OVER.

EVERYTHING WAS

IN REALITY,

.....

.....

UGH

RICCHAN 15

DRIFTING FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY.

JUST LIKE A KITE,

WITH IT'S STRING CUT.

通夜
告別式
葬儀
御

YOU'RE KAORU-KUN, AREN'T YOU...?

KAORU-KUN...?

YES.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, MARIKO-CHAN.

DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

UM...

GRAND-FATHER PASSED AWAY SO SUDDENLY...

HE'S LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON...

MARIKO-SAN.

IT'S SUCH A PAIN.

SINCE IT'S OUR FAMILY, THERE'S BOUND TO BE A FEW QUARRELS.

AFTER THE FUNERAL, THERE'S GOING TO BE A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE INHERITANCE.

IT'S UN-BECOMING!

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSING SUCH TOPICS IN PUBLIC.

GRAND-MOTHER...

IT WAS YOUR GRANDFATHER'S WISH FOR YOU TO BECOME A DOCTOR.

I'M RELIEVED.

KAORU-SAN.

YES...

medusa

I HEARD THAT YOU ARE NOW A DOCTOR IN TRAINING.

WE WILL HAVE YOU INHERIT GRANDFATHER'S HOSPITAL,

AND BECOME THE PILLAR OF THE NISHIMI FAMILY,

SO PLEASE DO YOUR BEST.

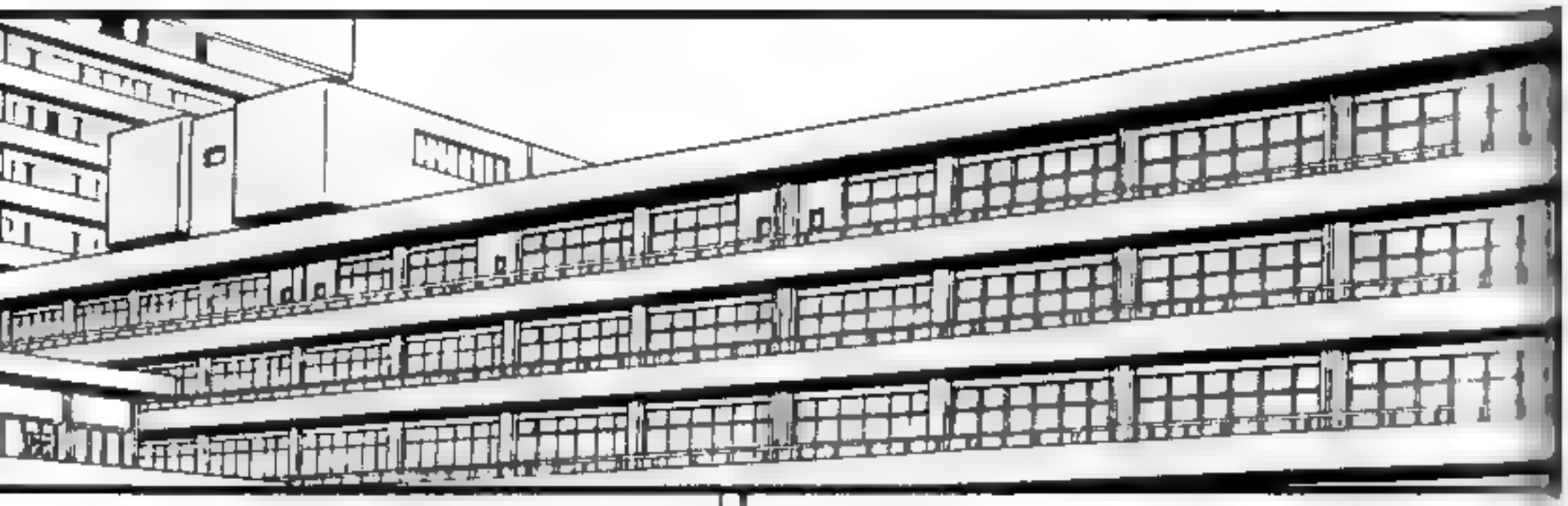
MOTHER, IT'S ALMOST TIME.

YES.

YOU HAVE IT HARD, KAORU-KUN.

I'M SURE THEY'LL ARRANGE A MARRIAGE INTERVIEW FOR YOU SOON.

.....



THERE'S A FREE BED IF YOU NEED TO TAKE A NAP.

HEY!

WHY DON'T YOU REST FOR A BIT?

HAHA.

IS THAT SO.

I'LL NEVER WAKE UP.

IF I GO TO SLEEP NOW,

IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE RICH PARENTS OR RELATIVES TO DEPEND ON...

I WANT TO RETURN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND START A PRACTICE THERE.

MY HOMETOWN IS A REMOTE PLACE IN THE MOUNTAINS, SO THERE ISN'T A DOCTOR.

BUT I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO DO SO.

YOU HAD A LONG TALK WITH MORI-SENSEI JUST NOW, DIDN'T YOU?

BY THE WAY,

OH,

I WAS ASKING FOR ADVICE ON OPENING A PRACTICE.

WELL, FOR NOW,

I'M PLANNING ON WORKING AT A PREFECTURAL HOSPITAL NEAR MY HOMETOWN.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE,

IT'S FINE...

I'M SORRY.

.....

はっ

BUT I HOPE I CAN FUFIL MY DREAMS.

LET'S WELCOME MATSUOKA SEIJI-SAN!

THIS TIME, WE HAVE A POPULAR STAR, ALSO KNOWN FOR HIS ACTING AND SINGING ROLES!

...AND SO,

DREAMS ...

EH!?

カチャ

I'M MATSUOKA SEIJI!
☆

HELLO!

スト 松岡星

YOU LOOK SHOCKED.

WHAT'S WRONG, NISHIMI?

wow. xozz?!

and, listen to xozz-

because i love music!

but i do enjoy singing more.

hmm. i like them both!

do you prefer singing or acting?

T, THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE...

HE'S FROM YOUR SCHOOL!? COULD YOU GET ME AN AUTO-GRAPH!?

we haven't talked since graduation!

THAT'S THE GUY MY SISTER HAS BEEN GOING ON ABOUT!

EH!?

SOMEONE I KNEW IN HIGH SCHOOL...

THAT'S ...

AH...

...I'M SURPRISED.

that's his personality-

if he's your age then he's taking too many years off his age. isn't he?

eh... 20...?

yes!

so, seiji-kun, you're 20 this years?

FUFILED HIS DREAMS.

MATSUOKA HAD

THOSE TWO,

LOOKED HAPPY.

BUT...

.....

THAT'S AMAZING...

...IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO MAKE A LIVING AS A TV CELEBRITY, THOUGH.

"PLEASE DO YOUR BEST."

ニッ

ーン？

……

IT'S GET-TING COLD.

COULD YOU SHUT THAT WINDOW?

AH, SORRY.

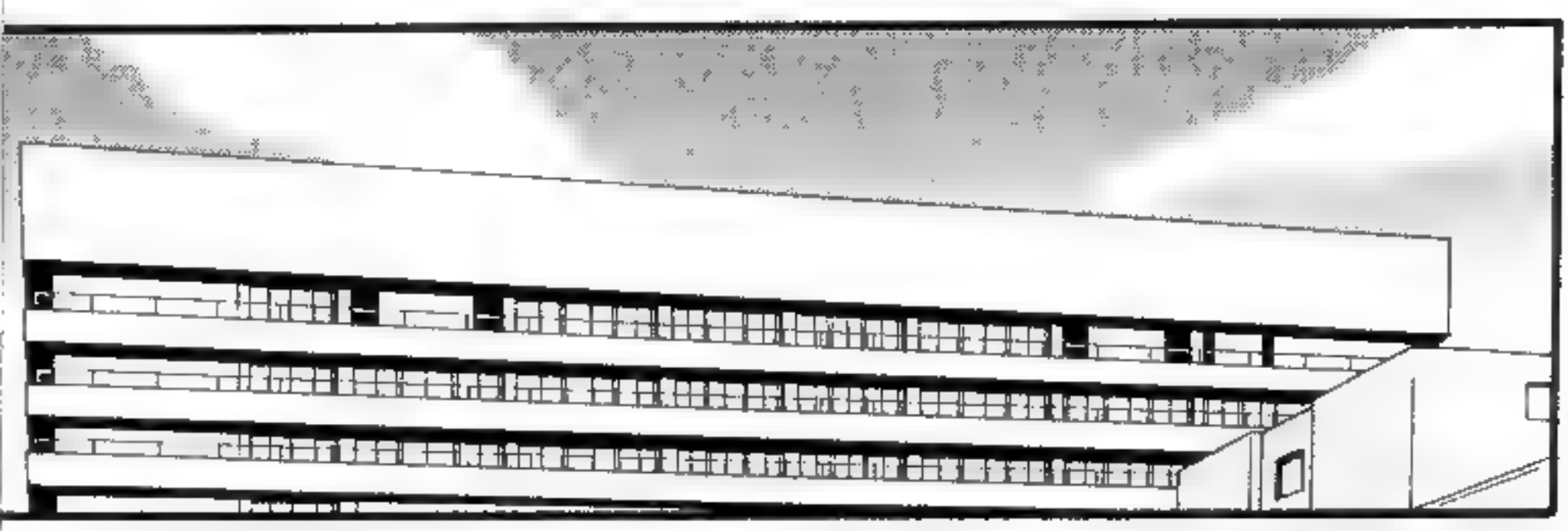
HEY...

!!?

ZZZZZ...

P P P P P P

AH...



NISHIMI-SENSEI!

I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU!

THERE'S SOMEONE LOOKING FOR NISHIMI-SENSEI IN THE LOBBY.

SHE SAID THAT SHE WANTED TO MEET YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

AND SHE SEEMED VERY ANXIOUS.

IT'S A YOUNG WOMAN.

YU...

YURIKA-SAN...?

you look very different

AMAZING, AMAZING!

KAORU-KUN, YOU'RE A DOCTOR NOW!

KAORU-KUN!

A FRIEND SENT ME THIS PHOTOGRAPH.

I JUST RECEIVED IT, SO I HAVEN'T SHOWN JUNICHI-SAN YET!

THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST SHOW YOU.

THERE'S NO TIME FOR CATCHING UP.

AH!

IT'S FROM MY FRIEND'S WEDDING CEREMONY AT THE CHURCH ON THIS ISLAND.

THIS PERSON LOOKS LIKE...?

AND WHO DO YOU THINK,

CAN I BORROW THIS PHOTO-GRAPH?

YURIKA-SAN.

.....

I'VE WRITTEN THE ADDRESS AND DIRECTIONS ON THE BACK OF THE PHOTOGRAPH.

I KNEW YOU WOULD SAY THAT.

ONE CAN NEVER TELL WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE.

REALLY.

.....

AND THAT'S WHY LIFE IS INTERESTING,

ISN'T IT?

ART BLAKEY AND THE JAZZ MESSENGERS

DON'T PANIC!

OH, WAIT!

ALRIGHT, GO ON!

LET EVERYONE KNOW IT'S MORNING!

SCENE45

SCENE 45

HEY!

STOP COMING ON THE ROOF WHILE DRESSED LIKE THAT!

YOU'LL GET YOUR CLOTHES DIRTY!

ARE YOU COMING TO MASS WITH PIGEON WASTE ALL OVER YOU?

SORRY, BUT IT'S TROUBLESOME HAVING TO CHANGE TWICE IN THE MORNING.

GOOD MORNING FATHER!

GOOD MORN-ING

AH

THE PRIEST-IN-TRAINING IS ON THE ROOF AGAIN!

BUT HE SAID HE DIDN'T MIND!

YOU SHOULD'NT CALL HIM THAT, SHIGERU-CHAN...

[illegible] ISN'T A PROPER PRIEST YET.

I'M STILL IN TRAINING!

THAT'S RIGHT.

YEAH,

I'M NOT SURE IF HE'S SERIOUS, OR JUST FOOLING AROUND.

REALLY ...

.....

OH, THAT'S RIGHT! SHIGERU, IT'S YOUR TURN TODAY.

COME AND HELP ME PREPARE FOR MASS.

OKAY-

HERE, USE THIS.

THERE ISN'T ONE.

OH DEAR, THE TIP BROKE.

WHERE'S THE SHARP-ENER?

こども神有 勉強会

THAT'S MY TREASURE.

USE IT CAREFULLY.

IT'S A FOUNTAIN PEN!

WOW!

HM?

WHAT?

WAAAA!

WHAT HAPPENED?

HAHA.

IS THAT SO?

I TRIED TELLING THEM THAT IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE'S PUPPY, BUT IT'S NO USE...

THE PUPPY ...!

THESE CHILDREN REALLY WANTED TO SEE THE PUPPY AGAIN, AND THEY WOULDN'T STOP CRYING.

YOU BROUGHT A PUPPY TO THE PARK, DIDN'T YOU?

AT THE GATHERING YESTERDAY,

PLEASE TELL THE PRIEST THAT I'LL FINISH THE CLEANING I PROMISED TO DO LATER!

Y,

YES...

LET'S GO MEET THE PUPPY!

THEN,

ALRIGHT!

FUFU,

IT'S SUDDENLY SO LIVELY HERE.

あはははは

ヤギ

WELL THEN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.

YOU CAN TAKE YOUR TIME HERE.

THOSE CHILDREN AREN'T FROM THE KINDERGARTEN, BUT THE ORPHANAGE, RIGHT?

YEAH.

HIS FEVER HAS GONE DOWN, BUT HE'S STILL BEDRIDDEN.

HAVE YOU TAKEN HIM TO A CLINIC?

BY THE WAY, HOW IS GRAND-FATHER DOING?

AH...

GROWL

AND THIS ISLAND ONLY HAS ONE DOCTOR.

I SEE...

THAT CAN'T BE HELPED.

NO, WE ASKED FOR A DOCTOR TO COME HAVE A LOOK AT HIM.

BUT IT SEEMS THAT THEY'RE BUSY RIGHT NOW.

EH, NO,

I CAN'T...

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME RICEBALLS?

AHAHA.

THAT WAS LOUD!

YOUR STOMACH'S HONEST, THOUGH.

ぎゃはは

おはは

ぐるるるる...

...I'M SORRY.

THE RICE-BALLS ...

...EH?

I HOPE THIS IS ENOUGH...

SORRY FOR THE WAIT,

FROM THE CHURCH,

IT'S THE SOUND OF THE ORGAN,

AND THIS SONG IS...

THIS SONG IS

MOANIN'

THAT WAS

ONE HELL OF AN APPEARANCE.

.....

.....

HEH!

THAT'S ENOUGH ACTING COOL FOR YOU.

IDIOT!

HUH?

I COULDN'T REALLY HEAR THAT.

HEY!

DID YOU JUST SAY SOMETHING ABOUT HOW HANDSOME I LOOK?

WELL, LOOK AT YOU, DRESSED LIKE THAT.

ARE YOU GOING TO ATTEND A COSTUME PARTY?

WHO'S THAT, PLAYING THE CHURCH'S ORGAN WITHOUT PERMISSION...!?

EH?

WE'VE GOT TO RUN.

THIS IS BAD.

I'm going to get you.

WAIT...

THIS WAY,

BON.

hey!
wait!

DIDN'T THIS HAPPEN BEFORE?

HEH,

...HAHA!

YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME, TO REMEMBER SOMETHING FROM SO LONG AGO.

ARE YOU DONE PACKING?

NISHIMI,

YEAH.

SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.

NOT AT ALL!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?

OH, I'D LOVE SOME.

IT'S FINE.

IT'S WHAT I WANT TO DO.

TO TURN THAT DOWN AND JOIN A HOSPITAL IN KYUSHU...

IF YOU HAD JUST GONE ALONG WITH YOUR FAMILY'S WISHES AND INHERITED THE HOSPITAL, YOUR FUTURE WOULD HAVE BEEN SECURE.

BUT YOU'VE GOT SOME RESOLVE THERE, NISHIMI.

I WANTED,

TO CHOOSE MY OWN PATH,

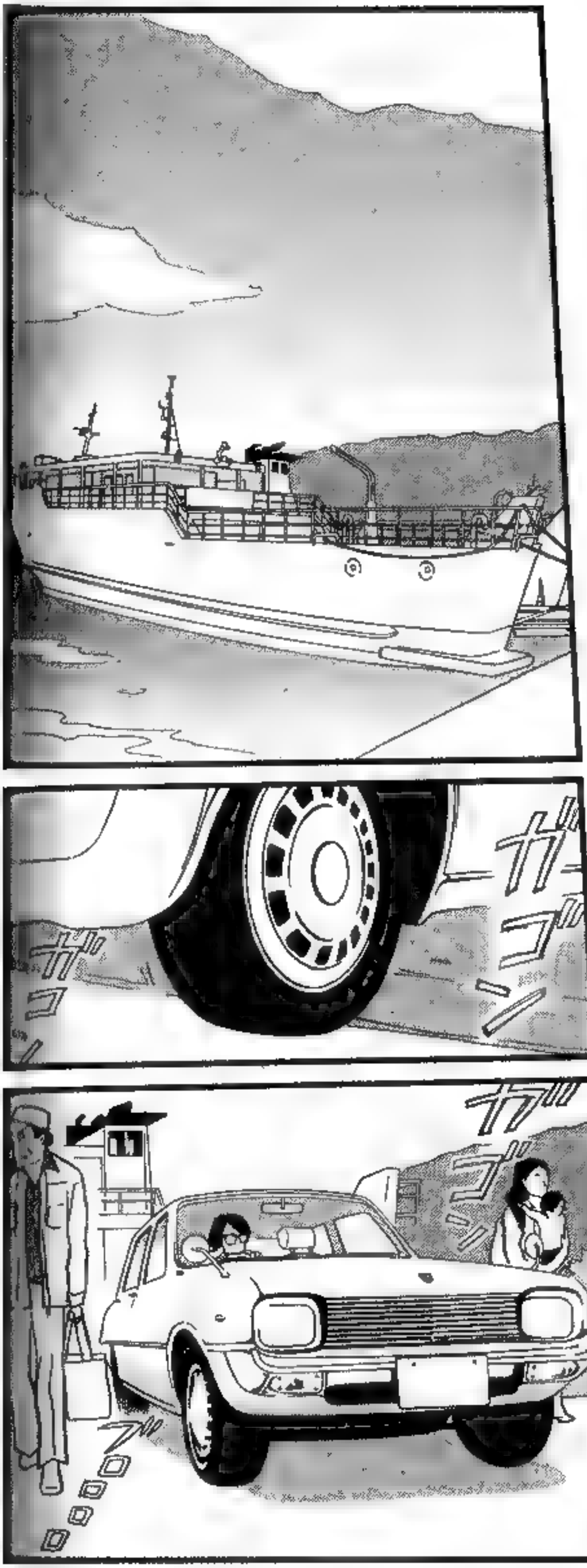
AND TO MOVE FORWARD WITH MY OWN STRENGTH.

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE GOING TO BE FAR APART, LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST.

AHAHA!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE WALKING DOWN THE SAME PATH AS ME!

REALLY,



ガーン

AH!

THE ENGINE...

ガタ

ガタ

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFUL, THERE AREN'T MANY FERRIES TO THE ISLAND...

I'M LATE...

I HOPE I'LL GET THERE IN TIME FOR THE CEREMONY...

USELESS SCRAP METAL!

ドド

.....

ドド

EH...?

WHO'S THAT...?

!!

WAA!

IT'S BON! IT'S BON!

KEEP QUIET IT'S ABOUT TO START

WAIT...

THERE'S A SEAT HERE.

SACCHAN...

パチパチパチ

ハ°
ヂ
ハ°
ヂ
ハ°
ヂ

SACCHAN IS BEAUTIFUL.
THIS ISLAND'S CHURCH IS A WONDERFUL PLACE FOR THE WEDDING.
THEY'VE PLANNED SOME ENTERTAINMENT AT THE PLAZA BELOW.
ENTERTAIN-MENT? I WONDER WHAT IT'LL BE.

RICCHAN.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.

KAORU... SAN.

.....

.....!

IT WAS A WONDERFUL WEDDING, WASN'T IT?

K, KAORU-SAN,

SHORT HAIR SUITS YOU WELL.

YOU'VE BECOME MORE BEAUTIFUL!

AREN'T YOU ANGRY?

YOU LOOK LIKE MARIA FROM THE SOUND OF MUSIC.

THE PHONE CALL...

DIDN'T HE SAY SOME TERRIBLE THINGS OVER THE PHONE, TO KAORU-SAN?

.....

ABOUT?

I WASN'T GOING OUT WITH THAT PERSON.

...IT'S OKAY.

LET'S NOT BRING THAT UP ANYMORE.

AND...

I WAS LONELY THEN.

HE WAS VERY PERSISTENT...

...EH?

I FELT GUILTY ABOUT THAT,

IN A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS,

I LET HIM COME TO MY ROOM.

SO I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO CONTACT KAORU-SAN.

NOW,

YOU'RE...

THEN,

SO,

EH?

.....

カゞ

RITSUKO'S LOOKING FOR A CANDIDATE FOR HER BRIDEGROOM!

THAT'S RIGHT!

しっ

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID, BON.

.....

...TH,

THERE'S ...

NO ONE LIKE THAT...

AM I WRONG?

WAIT...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, SENTAROU?!

DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE IN MIND ALREADY?

IF YOU GUYS EVER REACH A DECISION, COME TO ME!

WELL, THEN!

WE NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE SHOW!

!!

I'LL ARRANGE FOR YOUR CEREMONY!

WHAT IS HE SAYING, THAT SENTAROU!

KAORU-SAN IS ALREADY STAYING IN TOKYO.

.....

HAHA!

I'M NOT.

YOU'RE GOING BACK TO TOKYO AFTER THE CEREMONY, AREN'T YOU?

NO.

THEN, TOMORROW?

.....

STAYING HERE FOR GOOD.

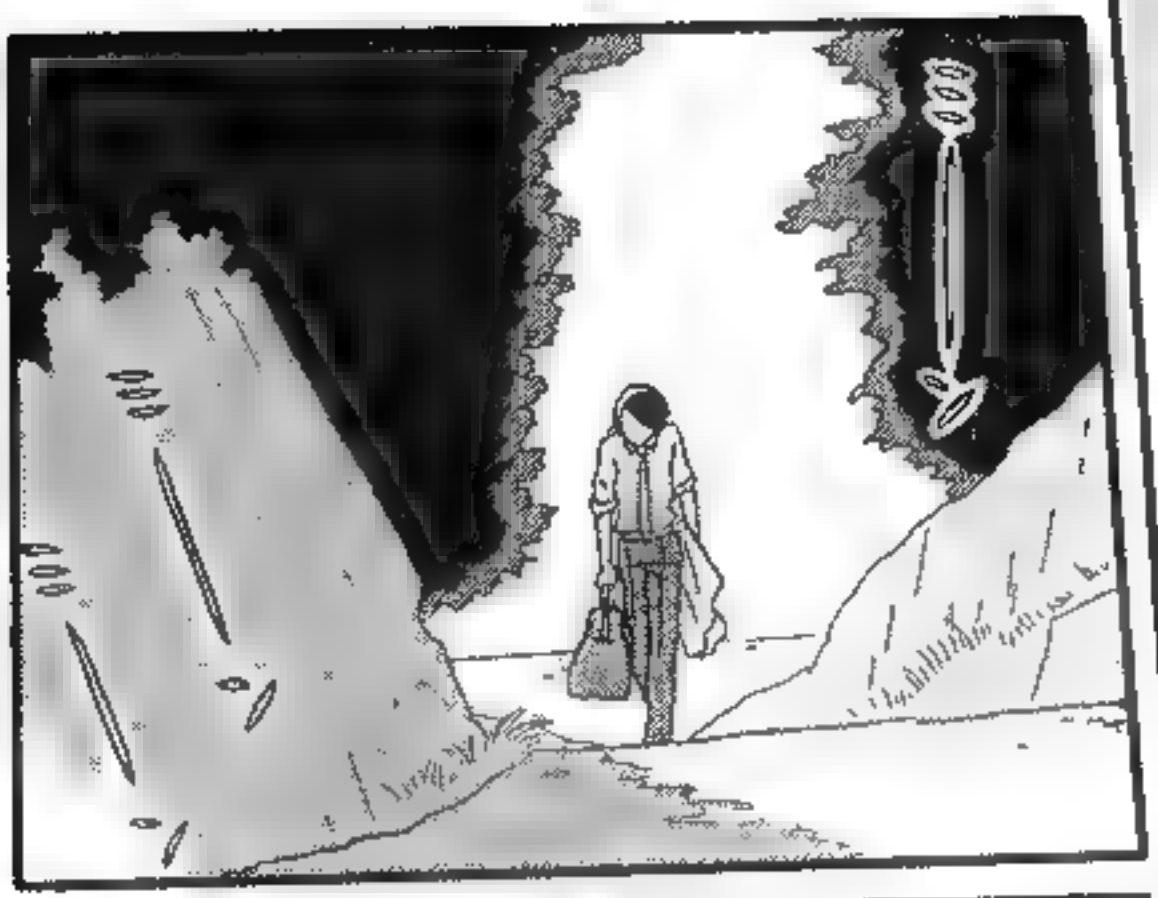
I'M

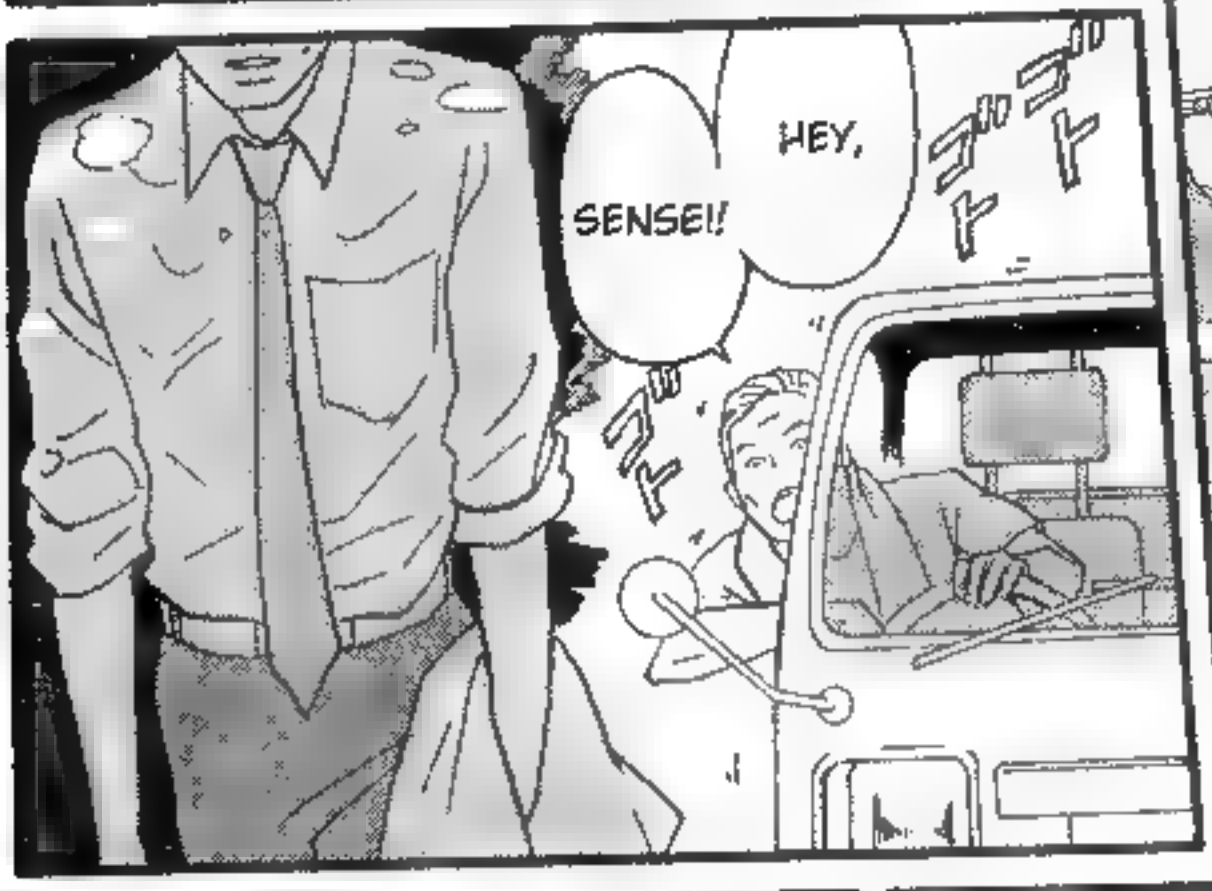
.....

EH?

COME WITH ME,

RICCHAN.




HEY, SENSE!!

I'M FINE, DON'T WORRY.
SHALL I GIVE YOU A LIFT TO THE TOP?
IF I COMPLAINED ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS, THE PEOPLE OF THE ISLAND WOULD LAUGH AT ME!

IT MUST BE TOUGH, HAVING TO CLIMB THIS HILL ON SUCH A HOT DAY.
YOU'VE BEEN HELPING OUT AT THE ISLAND'S CLINIC EVERY WEEK, HAVEN'T YOU?
EVERYONE IS GRATE-FUL FOR YOUR HELP!
YOU'RE WELCOME ...

はぁ
はぁ
はぁ
.....
AHAHA, THAT'S TRUE!
WELL THEN, SENSEI, DO YOUR BEST!
はぁ
はぁ
はぁ
WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS?
...DAMN.
IT'S TIRING...
I HATE THIS SLOPE.
REALLY...

Sakamichi no Apollon
-END-

あとがき

THANKS TO EVERYONE, I MANAGED TO FINISH THIS SERIES.

MANY THINGS HAPPENED IN THE PERIOD OF 4 YEARS WHEN THIS MANGA WAS SERIALIZED.

I FEEL THAT THE HAPPY TIMES AND SAD THINGS OF MY LIFE ARE ALL ABSORBED IN THIS STORY.

I'VE MET MANY WONDERFUL PEOPLE OVER THE COURSE OF SERIALIZATION. I'M GLAD TO HAVE DRAWN THIS MANGA.

THANK YOU FOR READING TILL THE VERY END.

I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE SPIN-OFF.

小玉ユキ

-KODAMA YUKI

Special Thanks To

稲井さん、桑名さん、斉藤ちゃん、谷さん、西本さん、前田ちゃん、松本さん、吉田さん、
米田さん、正田さん、野村さん、神谷さん、長澤さん、安東さん
担当 指宿さん flowers編集部、編プロの皆さん、名久井さん、diskunion塙さん、
その他 この漫画に関わって下さったすべての皆さん
アニメ『坂道のアポロン』スタッフおよび関係者の皆さん
そして最後まで読んで下さった読者の皆様へ
愛をこめて!

アニメ版『坂道のアポロン』も
よろしくお願いします
www.noitamina-apollon.com/

坂道のアポロン 10

BONUS TRACK

ボーナストラック

The spinoff, collected in the tenth volume!

What happened to Junichi and Yurika since then...!?

The thoughts of an unexpected character are brought to light!

The memories behind the instruments in the basement studio...

Stories which weren't covered in the main story will be put together in the tenth volume!

Please look forward to it!

2012年 秋頃 発売予定

待ちきれない！という方は 月刊 flowers（毎月28日頃発売）をチェック！